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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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SEPTEMBER



SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
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PRIZE WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER.

M. B. Thrasher, First Prize.
 Katherine E. Letts, Second Prize.
 J. Reveira, Third Prize.
 Ellen F. Wyckoff, Fourth Prize.
 Frank H. Sweet, Fifth Prize.

THE BLACK PEARL OF SULU.

A Story of the Philippine Islands.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY M. B. THRASHER.

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ONE day at dinner, after I had returned to Manila, I told the story of the Voodoo Queen of Cagayan. The man who sat next me seemed so deeply interested that he attracted my attention, particularly, and after we had left the table I was not surprised when he came and spoke to me. I knew him simply as a scientific man of some kind.

"We scientists have strange adventures," he said, after we had lighted our cigars. "I have been out here for three years, collecting for the State University. I came up a month ago from the southern islands." He smoked in silence for several minutes, before he spoke again. What you said about the chloroform made me think of something which happened to me not long ago.

"Sulu, you know, is one of the most southern of the large islands, and one of the nearest to Borneo. The people themselves call the island Jolo, and they are spoken of by their neighbors as Joloanos. By religion they are Moslems, and although they have been nominally under the control of Spain they have really been ruled by a Sultan of their own race. This sovereign when I was there was a middle-aged man.

"I had not been a fortnight in Maibun, the capital town, though, before I learned that the real power behind the throne was the Sultana Hegu. One day I was out on the veranda of my house sorting over some corals, when I saw a strange procession coming down the street. Sulu is the greatest place to get corals you ever saw. I found quantities of rare specimens, and three species never before described. The pearl divers got them for me. The pearl fisheries in Sulu are the richest in all the islands, but they are little worked, for all the pearls above a certain size go to the Sultan, so that all the divers get are the small pearls and the shells.

"When the procession came near my house I saw that six stout Joloanos were bearing on their shoulders a litter on which a woman reclined. On one side of the litter walked a sort of major domo, or escort, and on the other a slave bearing a huge umbrella. As they passed my house I saw the woman turn and speak to the guard, who looked at the pile of corals I was sorting, and replied. The woman's face was partly veiled, but as she turned to question her escort I saw her plainly. She was young, and though dark, was beautiful.

"Juralato, my native helper, was working with me. 'Who was that?' I asked, turning to him.

"To my astonishment I found Juralato down on his knees, with his face towards the street, bowed forward until his forehead touched the floor. After the cavalcade had passed he straightened himself. 'That was the Sultana Hegu,' he said, answering my question. 'The Sultana.'

"Afterwards he told me more about her. Hegu, it seemed, was a Visayan girl, brought a slave to Jolo to be sold. The Sultan had seen her and been so fascinated by her beauty that he had taken her and made her his favorite wife. That had been three years before. Rumor said that he had regretted his bargain since, for prosperity had developed an independence and a temper in Hegu which would have had her strangled before now if she had been less beautiful or less skillful in diplomacy.

"Juralato openly wondered how long it would be before Her Majesty would be put out of the way, and one day when we were being paddled in from the coral reefs and met going out the state boat of the Sultan, a long, low craft with many carvings and draperies, he declared the deed must have been done and that

the Sultan was making a voyage to another town of the island to find Hegu's successor.

"That night I woke to find my body held firmly in the hammock in which I slept, while a thick cloth was being bound tightly over my mouth. Before I could twist myself free to shout for help a native's voice close to my ear said distinctly:

"Let the Senor not fear. It is a very little thing which is wanted of him, and if he will only lie quiet he shall not be harmed. But if he be not quiet, it is not to us the difference will be made."

"The room was dimly lighted, but by the light I could see a native standing on the other side of the hammock, with a barong raised to strike. A barong is sword, axe, saw, and bayonet, all in one, in the hands of a Sulu. I had seen them clip a goat's head from the body with one blow of the weapon, and then with another blow cleave the carcass from neck to tail. There was no one in the house except myself, so it did not take me long to decide to lie quiet.

"Producing a rope of cocoanut fibre the native who had spoken to me, beginning at my feet, wound it around me in the hammock until I was swathed from feet to neck as tightly as an Egyptian mummy, except that one arm was left free from the elbow. The reason for this I saw a moment later, when I was asked:

"Where does the Senor keep the sweet smelling water which makes monkeys sleep dead?"

"I knew at once that he meant chloroform, for that was the way the natives who had seen me kill specimens with the drug always spoke of it. I pointed to the door of the next room. The two men picked up my hammock and carried me there. I pointed again to a chest, from which, directed by my signals, that one of the natives who seemed to be the leader, took two pint tin cans of chloroform and put them in a bag which hung from his shoulder. 'What else does the Senor use?' he asked. I pointed to a bunch of wild cotton and some cones made of banana leaf; and he put these with the cans of chloroform. Then he tied a cloth over my head in such a way that I could not have pulled it off with my one free hand, even if I had tried to do so. In the darkness of this covering I felt my hammock taken up again and carried with a swift steady motion. I tried to judge something of the direction in which we were going, and of the distance covered, but found I could not.

"When the cloth was taken from my face I found the hammock had been swung in a large, brightly lighted room. I felt quite sure that in no house in Maibun except the royal palace of the Sultan could so large a room have been found, but of this I had no real knowledge. The same two natives were with me, but in the brighter light of this room each wore a mask of cocoanut cloth. One of them stood as before, with his barong poised ready to strike. The other, when he had unwound me from the hammock and helped me to my feet, led me to a table at one end of the room on which was one of the cans of chloroform and the other materials which we had brought. On the floor beside the table was a bamboo cage in which half a dozen monkeys were confined. Reaching deftly among them the native brought one out, and holding him down on the table said:

"Will the Senor make the monkey sleep dead?"

"The table stood near one end of the room. The wall there was one of the light bamboo partitions which separate the rooms of a Sulu house. What first made me think that I was being watched from behind this partition I do not know, but before I had pressed the banana leaf cap over the monkey's nose I felt sure the native who had handed me the animal, and the other, standing like a statue with his poised barong, were not my only audience. Who or what was watching me through the meshes of the bamboo wall I did not know, but somebody or something was there.

"When the first victim lay still I was handed another, and then another, until three lay side by side upon the table. The time I spent waiting for the animals to die passed the most slowly of any in my life. I could not speak, the natives did not, nor did the bamboo wall, although I felt sure it might.

"When I made a sign that my task was completed my guide said, turning towards my hammock, 'Will the Senor let us take him home?'

"I climbed back into the hammock, was tied up once more, had my face covered as before, and was carried home. When my hammock had been swung in its usual place the man who all along had been the spokesman said, 'I have the honor to thank the Senor for his kindness. I trust,' he added, with a significant look at the barong, 'that no one but the Senor will be informed of our visit.' With that they went away.

"It took me an hour, with only one free hand, to get the bandage off my mouth and free myself from the hammock. By that time the men would have been safely out of reach, even if I had wished to follow them, which I did not. I felt sure they were the two Visayans who had attended the Sultana the day her litter had been carried past my house. I carefully removed all trace of their visit before Juralato came in the morning. While I was doing this

I noticed that the men had even brought back with me the empty tin can from which we had used the chloroform.

"I had already been planning to leave Sulu that week, for Teomabal, a small island not far away, and did so, bringing my specimens with me. I stayed a month at Teomabal, collecting. While I was there a pearl diver's boat bound north brought the news of the death of the Sultan of Sulu. As he had no heirs the Sultana Hegu ruled as his successor.

"The day before I was to leave for Manila a Sulu prau hove in sight from the south. She dropped anchor in the harbor, and a native came on shore from her, asking for me. I knew him at once as the Visayan escort of the Sultana and my midnight visitor, but not a muscle of his face showed that he had ever seen me before.

"I have the honor to deliver this package to the Senor," said he, handing me a small bundle. Saluting gravely, he returned to his boat, and in less than an hour the sails of the prau were bearing her southward again.

"I untied the cocoanut fibre covering of the package to find the second of the two tin chloroform cans taken from me that night. Something inside it rattled. Had some one sent me a child's rattle? I unscrewed the top and turned out into my hand, this:

The teller of the story touched the spring of a large gold case which he had taken from his pocket, and held out towards me a superb black pearl, so large and perfect that almost no one but an Eastern monarch could have hoped to own it.

"You will hardly go back to Sulu," I said, when I had done admiring the beautiful jewel.

He did not answer at once, but looked at the pearl, clicked the case shut, and returned it to his pocket. When he did speak it was to say, "I shall go back there as soon as I can travel safely."

The way he looked when he said this made me wonder, thinking of it now, if, after all, the gem he had shown me was for him the real "black pearl of Sulu."

Men are strange creatures, sometimes.

Absconded—The Treasurer of the United States.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE E. LETTS.

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ALL about the great robbery!" shouted a newsboy. "Scandal in high life! Embezzler on his way to Canada!"

I was just swinging onto the morning train as it pulled out of Thompsonville for Philadelphia. "Here," I shouted. The boy ran up and extended a paper as I reached out for it, but being a sharp business boy, and not seeing the money in my fingers, he drew it back again and I was carried on.

One glance had shown me, however, that his call was correct, for across the head of the first three columns, in huge scare type, were the words—

ABSCONDED—THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES

and as I sank into a seat and settled myself for a comfortable ride I began to think it over. What possibilities lay in those few words! So great were that official's powers and responsibilities that he could steal moneys to an extent that would make the average embezzler ashamed of his profession. He was not limited to what bonds and notes he could carry away in a hand satchel, for he could boldly order his clerks and underlings to pack up millions of the bulkier treasure, the gold and silver coin, and ship it to such points as he should designate. If he laid his plans carefully, and struck boldly enough, he could vanish to some foreign country and become a prince among men.

The person of the treasurer of the United States is of greater or less importance, depending largely on his own inclination and temperament. Like the president, he can go wholly unguarded, or can be watched over day and night by Secret Service men, ready to protect him from the assaults of cranks and footpads.

Of course the treasurer does not carry the bulk of the national gold reserve in a belt inside his shirt, nor does he carry home the greater part of the greenback circulation for safe-keeping under his pillow. But lots of people may think that he does, and it is a wise man who takes ample precautions.

What a fine thing it would be, I thought, if I could find the treasurer and arrest him. With the man once in hand it ought to be possible to make him disclose the hiding place of all the money he had taken, or, failing that, induce him to return it in exchange for his liberty. I once held a warrant as a deputy sheriff at home and ever since then have had an itch-

ing to arrest somebody.

Now it happens that I know Roberts Morgan by sight, and just as my train came to a halt in the station at Philadelphia, I caught a glimpse of a familiar figure approaching from the ticket inspector's gate; a second glance convinced me that the hurrying traveler was none other than the fugitive treasurer. He was holding a handkerchief to his face and this, while serving to conceal his identity in part, did not look sufficiently suspicious to excite the gateman's curiosity.

I sprang from the couch, skipped across two open tracks to intercept him. He removed the handkerchief and I recognized Morgan beyond a doubt. Just as he went to step up to his car I laid my hand on his shoulder. He made no move beyond glancing quickly around, but the next instant I was hit a tremendous blow in the ear that made me hear the roar of falling Niagara, and another across the forehead that produced showers of shooting stars and similar fireworks. At the same time I was jammed down onto the rails, and rubbed around on the ground. I took little interest in the immediately succeeding events, but was dimly conscious of being hauled off in a wagon through a crowd of people who shouted and danced, through thronged streets to some public building where I was locked in a narrow room.

When I returned to full consciousness I found that I was in an insane asylum. The first sounds that smote my ears were the lamentations of a dreamer of treasured wealth. "He wouldn't let me have it," wailed the voice. "It was my money. He hid it where I couldn't find it. Please let me out, I didn't mean no harm. I'll be straight."

Another voice interrupted, seeking to stay the vapid wanderings of the believer in hidden wealth. "Curse you. Stop your chatter. If I could get at you I'd shut off your wind. Blast your eyes. Stop the racket!"

Evidently some of the lunatics were locked like myself in separate cells; but others walked about in the corridor. One approached a grinning face to my door.

"What's yours?" it said.

"Eh?"

"How did you come to get pinched?"

Apparently "pinched" was the technical word for insane.

"I tried to steal a ride," continued the face. In other words, as I understood, he had

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probably tried to steal a ride on a railway train.

"Oh, you're the fellow that assaulted Morgan," went on the maniac. "What was it? Did you have something against him, or was it his pocketbook you were after? You ought to have more sense than tackle him in the depot. Besides he's always followed by the fly cops." He came closer and pressed his face against the bars, and then broke into a wild discordant laugh, a frightful imitation of hilarity. "Oh, golly!" he shrieked. "Oh, golly!"

As he staggered off I experienced a feeling of profound pity for this poor mental wreck, and at the same time began nervously to wonder what my own special delusion could be. At that juncture a police officer in uniform entered the corridor and began to read a list of names from a paper. What a policeman could be used for in an insane asylum I could not imagine. Finally he called my name, and then unlocked my door and ordered me to come out and get in line. A lot of other lunatics stood in a row, and a tougher, rougher set of men, black and white, I never saw. They all turned their evil eyes on me and I wondered whether they were dangerous. Some grinned, but others looked frightened. As the policeman passed by I caught him by the sleeve, and nearly got clubbed for it.

"What is the name of this asylum?" I asked.

"This what?"

"This insane asylum."

"Haint you got over your drunk yet? This is the police station—city prison—lock-up."

My neighbors hee-hee'd and haw-hawed, and on looking again I saw that they were only a lot of subjects for the afternoon police court and not lunatics at all. One by one they disappeared through a door, through which as it opened and closed, one could catch glimpses of a gaping crowd of loungers, some tables at which lawyers and reporters sat, and the high bench of the police judge.

At last my name was called and the bailiff aided me with no gentle hand to a position before the court. "Hold up your right hand," shouted some one. "Your right hand. Don't you know your right hand? Drop that hat!" Then another voice repeated over something that sounded like "cold" shorthand notes look, and wound up with "a'selmegeed."

A man sitting at a table read an affidavit in which I, W. Beltney, was charged with assault and battery committed on the person of Robert Morgan. "Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" he asked.

I became aware that every one in the room was laughing at me, except the bailiff, who was trying to restore order. On the table I discovered everything that had been in my pockets; purse, pipe, letters and private papers.

"Of course I'm—" I began, to the man who had read the affidavit.

"Make your reply to the court," he shouted.

"Of course I'm not guilty. I was arresting Morgan for embezzlement," I said, facing around at the judge. There was a smile on his face. "What are you laughing at?" I demanded.

Instead of sending me to jail for contempt of court, he pointed toward a mirror. "Go look at yourself," he said.

I looked. The sooty grease into which I had fallen at the depot had plastered itself over my features in artistic smooches that a circus clown might have envied, and I looked the maniac even better than my fellow prisoner of the corridor. They had left me my handkerchief, and when I had wiped away the last streak of grease and cleared my eyes, I turned around and confronted my once fellowtownsman, the Hon. Angus Ohlen, who had left Thompsonville to dispense justice from the Quaker City police court. He stared for an instant, and then a gleam of recognition leaped into his eyes.

"Well, Beltney," he said, and climbed down from the bench. We shook hands like long lost brothers, to the immense delight of the loungers, one of whom could not resist the temptation to cry, "If mother could only see me now!"

"What is the trouble?" asked his honor, still shaking my hand.

"I learned from the papers that the treasurer of the United States had absconded, and as I saw him making for a train down at the depot, I tried to stop him," I explained.

"And his guards, thinking you meant to assault him, handled you rather roughly, and then sent you in. This is what you saw in the paper, I guess." He pulled a folded Thompsonville Clarion out of his pocket and displayed the front page. "I was down there this morning; came back on the early train," he added. "Bought the paper just before I started."

ABSCONDED—THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL BANK
of Thompsonville.
Short in his Accounts.

Caught about midnight at the Canada line. "Dismiss the case," said his honor, shortly, as he climbed back to his seat. "Beltney, you had better go into my private room and wash up—and," as the policeman who had threatened to club me deferentially showed me the way, "the next time you see an embezzler running around loose, you had better leave him to the tender mercies of the police!"

WOMEN WHO FAINT.

A MODERN APPLICATION OF THE FAMOUS EPIGRAM, "FRAILTY, THY NAME IS WOMAN."

It is a curious fact that the word faint is derived from a French word meaning to pretend. The word feint, meaning a deceptive movement, as by the boxer or swordsman, has the same derivation. So that originally a woman who fell forward in unconsciousness was merely one who feigned illness. But there is no feigning in that sudden failure of the vital power which blanches the cheek, closes the eyes, seems to stop the breath and sends the woman an inert mass upon the counter at which she is shopping. Fainting is very real



for the sufferer who cannot go to ball or theater without this liability to sudden unconsciousness, menacing her enjoyment and safety.

Why do women faint? Women themselves would in this advanced age of progress be the first to deny the charge of physical frailty. They run and row, they swim and ride, they golf and shoot side by side with men. And yet they faint. You rarely hear of a man's fainting. Such a thing is so uncommon as to partake of the nature of a phenomenon. Why don't men faint? Why can a weak framed, undersized man go through life without fainting, when a splendid woman, a Diana for beauty and courage, must know the humiliation of this sudden lapse of consciousness? There is

A SCARLET CLUE

to follow which will bring us safely out from the labyrinth of discussion. There are certain times when a woman is more liable to faint than she is at other times. And those times will be found to be the times when the womanly nature and functions are most dominant. The conclusion is irresistible. As a general proposition a woman faints because the delicate organs by which she is differentiated from brother or husband are affected by disease. Woman is creation's masterpiece, the last and fairest work of the Creator. To her are given joys and sorrows which no man may know and no man can share. To her also is given a capacity for suffering beyond the knowledge of men. The great question is: To what extent is this suffering necessary? Has woman been made so finely only that she may know the refinement of suffering? The very thought is an outrage on Nature. The "new woman" will know nothing of the suffering of the woman of the past. She will "run and not be weary." She will "walk and not faint." Let her put away at once and forever the thought that she is under Nature's particular ban and must suffer because she is a woman. Let her relegate that superstition to the limbo where all the old superstitions that left her a slave have long been relegated. Let her believe that there is a way to sound, physical health which those that seek will surely find.

THE RIGHT WAY

to escape the physical bondage of weakness is to follow the guidance of other women who have found a way of escape from the sufferings so long esteemed inseparable from the feminine nature.

"For seven years I was confined to bed most of the time," writes Mrs. M. P. Davis, of Honaker, Russell Co., Va. "I had four doctors and they said I could not be cured. I had ulceration of womb and female weakness so I could not stand on my feet but a short time; had bearing down sensation, pain in the small of my back. My stomach and bowels, also legs and feet, would swell, and everything I ate hurt me. I could not sleep well, was so short of breath I could not lie down at night; had soreness and tenderness over womb; troubled with palpitation of heart, and suffered with headache all the time. I would get blind and have fainting spells. After the doctors said I could not be cured I got hold of one of Dr. Pierce's Memorandum Books and read about how he had cured so many patients afflicted like I was, so I thought his medicine might help me. I wrote to Dr. Pierce for advice, and he sent me a very encouraging letter in reply, advising me to take his 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery' and his 'Pleasant Pellets.' I got two bottles and used these and felt much better. I sent and got six bottles more. After I had used four bottles I broke out all over in sores. I then quit taking the medicine and wrote to Dr. Pierce, and he advised me to still keep on taking his medi-

cine. I did so, and soon found it to be a great medicine. I can now work all day and not feel tired at night. I can sleep all night and can eat anything I want at any time. I can walk and go anywhere I please. I feel better than I ever did. Can do all kinds of work in the house and outdoors, too. I am sorry I did not take Dr. Pierce's medicine when I first began to have poor health. I could have saved what I paid to humbugs. My friends say that I do not look like the same woman. When I commenced your medicine I only weighed one hundred pounds. Now I weigh one hundred and forty."

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THE TRAIN DISPATCHER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY J. REVHRA.

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He was a typical inventor. There was a painful wrinkle running horizontally across his brow, as though disappointment and he were close friends, and a double vertical wrinkle between the eyes that made you think of him as continually squinting through some intricate machinery, in search of a hitch or faulty gear that interfered with the motion. His hands were stubby and showed signs of hard work and frequent accidents. His age any one might have guessed; but it would have been no more than a guess.

He had already tried a hundred railroads, and was just about to try to bring this plan before the hundred and first when he fell in with Harry Jervis. How they happened to meet, I have forgotten, and it isn't important anyway, but I think it was during one of those fits of abstraction that used to take Harry when he was most in love. It was a curious predicament for a young man to find himself in, but it was a reality nevertheless, and one day he was sure that Agnes was his destiny, and the next that he could never go through the world without her cousin Rose by his side. I suppose the real explanation was that he was in love with neither, though, he admired both immensely. At any rate, during these attacks his friends were not far wrong in regarding him as *non compos mentis*.

How else it was that he happened to be over on the East Side in a cheap sailor's hotel, I for one am not able to imagine. A violent altercation was taking place between the hotel-keeper, who was the bar-tender, on the one side, and an undersized man with the appear-

ance of a struggling mechanic on the other. It was not strictly an altercation, either, for the landlord was doing all the talking, and threatening to masticate and digest his victim while the other was standing on the defensive with a supplicating look on his face.

"Why didn't ye say ye hadn't any more money, an' leave w'en yer money give out," he roared, "instead o' beatin' a honest man out o' his board bill?"

"You see—"

"I don't see!"

"But—"

"Shut up!"

The small man relapsed into silence, rolling his eyes around the room in search of some promise of hope.

"Why don't ye talk?" roared the other, somewhat inconsistently.

"Why you see the reason I didn't leave so soon as money gave out was because of my invention. I was sure some one would take hold of it. Then I would have all the money I wanted. Why, man, I'll be rich yet! I'll have more money than I know what to do with! When my new railroad signal system, which does away entirely with all danger of collisions, is adopted by all the roads in this country and Europe, doing away with 95 per cent. of the telegraphing now necessary, and doing away also with the personal equation, the element of human fallibility, my income in royalties will be nearly \$450,000 a year. I have figured it out carefully."

"Why didn't ye leave w'en yer money give out?" repeated the innkeeper, stubbornly and still unconvinced. "D'ye know w'at I'm goin' to do to ye? I'm goin' to break ye in two!"

Just at this point Harry Jervis interfered and paid the bill. The inventor was all gratitude. He insisted on exhibiting his wonderful railroad signal system, and his benefactor offered no objection whatever. Harry's weak point was mechanics, and from the moment he had heard his own speaker of it, he had determined to see the contrivance.

Up in the dingy little bedroom they examined the gear displayed on the smoothed surface of the bed. It consisted mostly of a large square board painted to represent a map, and connecting several toy cities was a miniature track of tiny steel rails. On this track rolled little wheeled blocks, carrying small electric motors. These were dummies representing trains. In order, the inventor explained, to apply the system to any road, a small copy of the road must be made like the one on the bed; the real railroad must be perfectly wired and each train provided with a special device for sending signals over the wires to the miniature track, and finally an electric battery must be added. Then whenever a train started over the real track, one of the little dummy blocks would start along the dummy track and keep moving while the train moved, stopping when it stopped, and always indicating just where it was in reality.

It took the enthusiastic father of the idea a full hour to explain all the beauties of his system, but when he had finished Harry was satisfied.

"Why don't you get some road to try it?" he asked.

"I have tried," returned the other plaintively, "but they laugh at me."

"Have you tried the Great Windward?"

"Yes, and was almost thrown out of the office."

"Who did you see?"

"Some awfully important man. He had a scar across his forehead and one eyelid that drooped."

Harry laughed.

"That was the reception clerk. He guards the president's office."

"I have talked to superintendents and managers, but never yet to a president," said the man with awe in his voice.

"Come on," said Harry, "we'll try them again."

The inventor asked no questions, but gathered his traps together and they sallied forth and took a car for down town. The clerks in the executive office on Broadway looked up in mild surprise as the president's son piloted a poorly-dressed man and a large package into the president's private office.

"Father, this is a man you will be interested in," said Harry, as the mighty one glanced up. "The president of the Great Windward," he added to the inventor. And then they got down to business.

The upshot of it all was that the fourth division of the Great Windward was wired from end to end, the trains were equipped with automatic signalling apparatus, and in the dispatcher's office on a large table lay a chart of the country from New York to Philadelphia. Over the tiny railroad that connected the cities the little dummy trains were slowly creeping. The dispatcher, a grizzled veteran, with an eye like an eagle and "a face like a dog," as the boys had it, was sitting at his table looking out into the night and cursing softly. The new system did away almost entirely with the multitudinous reports from the conductors of every train and at almost every important stop. The new machine reported for them, and showed him at a glance just where each train lay, in what direction it was going, and at what speed. If two trains drew too near to-

gether, either approaching each other or moving in the same direction, he could see it at a glance. But the scheme was new and he wasn't used to it. Therefore he swore.

Now and then he walked over and took a look at the chart and the moving dummies. The inventor stood there looking on too, watching every move, and rubbing his hands delightedly. The dispatcher looked at him and swore again. Then he walked down to the other end of the table and made some remark to Harry Jervis, but Harry at that moment was absorbed in his ever present problem of the two sweethearts and failed to notice. Just then the sounder called and the dispatcher went back to answer.

"President Jervis' private car with special, waiting at Holyoke. Put through to New York soon as possible."

It was an order for the dispatcher from the superintendent of division.

"Who is in the party?" an inquisitive operator called from down the line.

"President Jervis, daughter, Mary Jervis, and Rose Selby. Agnes Selby staying at Holyoke with grip," gossiped back the superintendent's operator.

"Your father, sister, and Rose Selby want to leave Holyoke," said the dispatcher rising and glancing over the chart.

"So?" said Harry, waking up for a moment. "Yes. The 'Empress' leaves Jersey City in half a minute, but she can pass the special at Mt. Auburn."

He went back to his table and ordered the conductor of the special to start at once and side-track at Mt. Auburn within twenty minutes, until the Empress Express had passed on its way south. At that moment Harry saw the dummy representing the Express start from Jersey City. In another minute the dummy representing the special left the Holyoke station and started to meet it over the little rails, their creeping progress really indicating great bursts of speed from the iron monsters tearing along the actual railroad down in the state. It was just as though the watchers were far up above the world looking down on the road. The beauty of the arrangement even appealed to the cynical eye of the dispatcher. The inventor had come down to that end of the table and was watching the two trains. Harry leaned with his elbows on the chart and wondered whether it was the handsome, stately Agnes down there in the little circle representing Holyoke, or the pretty, petite Rose on the little train drawing away from Holyoke, that he loved.

Some minutes passed, and suddenly the dispatcher uttered an exclamation that is usually omitted in publication. The special had run onto the side track at Peters. "I told him to go on to Mt. Auburn," he shouted, springing to the telegraph key. Five minutes passed; the Empress still crept on toward the south. The dispatcher still stormed at the operator at Peters. Then something else happened that caused him to rip out an imprecation that ended in a howl. The special pulled out from Peters and started north again.

"The enchanted idiot," screamed the dispatcher, "he can't make the side-track at Mt. Auburn now, and there isn't another between the two places, nor a telegraph station to signal them. The operator at Mt. Auburn has quit by this time of night."

The operator at Peters answered just then and blandly informed the dispatcher that the north bound special was not stopping on his sidetrack.

The dispatcher ran back to the chart. The two trains were coming closer every instant. He thrust his hands into his hair and pulled with main strength.

"I hope you don't blame me," murmured the inventor. "It is not my fault, I assure you. The system is working beautifully."

The dispatcher turned on him without a word and knocked him down. Then he ran to the telegraph key again. A gong that had been contrived to ring when two dummies drew too near together now filled the room with an alarm. The inventor picked himself up and in doing so knocked over a table holding the dispatcher's lunch, and the things fell to the floor with a crash. At that instant the trains came together with a tiny splintering sound, reared, and fell upside down on the chart across the rails, while the little motors buzzed like escaping steam. Harry stood over the chart, holding the table with both hands, and face white as death itself. The dispatcher was leaning over his key sending orders everywhere. He called out the wrecking train from Peters with all the doctors that could be had, a special train from Holyoke with more doctors, and another from Jersey City with still more doctors. Then he cursed the entire division under the general O. S. call, shut the key, and dropping his head on his arms, cried:

"What's the matter with the old man?" inquired an operator somewhere down-toward Philadelphia.

"Cracked," answered the Peters operator. "Screw loose," suggested the Holyoke office.

"Send Doctor Welsh to take charge of the dispatcher at once." It was the division superintendent talking to the down stairs New Jersey office.

"What's the matter with the old man? This is Jervis talking," answered the down stairs New Jersey office.

"That you, Mr. Jervis? This is the superintendent of the fourth division. The dispatcher thinks he has had a smash-up between your train and the Empress."

"She passed us at Mt. Auburn. We made Jersey City with that stop only."

The dispatcher raised his head. Footsteps were heard on the stairs and Dr. Welsh entered. He patted the dispatcher on the shoulder. "Not enough sleep lately!" he suggested. "Come, let's take a walk out in the fresh air."

"You blank blank blank!" shouted the dispatcher, ignoring the doctor and starting towards the inventor, who escaped by the door. Foiled in this the enraged man caught the table bearing the chart and the little trains, and wrenching loose all the electrical connections, jerked it over.

More footsteps sounded on the stairs and Mary Jervis said to some one back of her, "This is the room from which all the trains are controlled. We have a new—why what's the matter here?"

"How do you do Harry?" said Rose, following her friend into the room. "You look as though—oh—!"

It wasn't the sight of the overturned railroad. It was only Harry Jervis who had found out which one of the Selby girls he really loved.

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MY ST. CECILIA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELLEN F. WYCKOFF.

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I was in Florence that I saw the picture. A lovely blue eyed St. Cecilia with softly parted hair and calm, smiling lips. Looking at the face it became more than a picture to me. I loved it. Loved it all the more that my unreasoning passion could bring no change to the waiting beauty of the heaven-blue eyes.

I began to paint the face, giving it, in different pictures, the ex-

pressions that would come to a woman who lived and loved and suffered. I worshiped the picture; I studied it. The face, pure as an angel's, the queenly head, the graceful throat and perfect, exquisitely draped shoulders and the little dimpled hands lying on the organ keys.

An old man whose studio was near mine came sometimes to look at the pictures in the gallery. Once he stopped near me. I turned my canvas from him and he smiled.

"It is a beautiful face and a marvelous picture," he said. "It was painted by an American—a Southern man. Oscar Sinclair." I started, but his eyes were on the picture. I wanted to ask him many questions, but he passed on, and that night a letter came calling me to New Orleans.

I had lived abroad since early boyhood. First with my mother and then alone. My uncle in New Orleans had died and I was his heir. So, without seeing the old artist again I left the city.

My father's sister met me in the fine old hall. I understood that the household was in no way to be changed except that I was to take my uncle's place as head of the house.

"I am glad to see you, Jack," my aunt said kindly. "I've gathered a houseful of lads and lassies to welcome you, for my brother expressly commanded it so. He desired your home coming to be bright with no shadow of his going resting upon it. To-morrow a whole bevy of pretty girl cousins are coming."

The old house was full of light and flowers and sweet odors and gay voices. It was late when at last I sat alone in the quaint parlor that had been my uncle's private sitting room.

"We supposed you'd want it, my dear boy. He loved it and you are so like him. It is a queer place, and not at all to my taste, but being an artist yourself you may fancy it," Aunt said as she kissed me good night and glanced deprecatingly about the room.

Yes, I should like it. I was like my uncle and he was said to be the counterpart of his father, the artist who had painted my St. Cecilia.

The room was very dimly lighted, but my eyes soon became accustomed to the soft glow and I was entranced by the weird beauty of the place. The walls and the carpet were black, and gleaming statuary filled the corners. Pictures and mirrors and shelves of books lined the walls. And at the farther end was a beautiful organ with tall, fluted pipes and beside it, in an alcove with a medallion set in the carved panel of its door, was a quaintly carved, curiously made case. My aunt had told me that the family lawyer kept the key to this case. She had no idea of its contents. It had been her father's and her brother had valued it, chiefly, she supposed, because of the medallion that was a copy of a picture in Florence, she believed. It was only the face with a frame of soft dark hair, but it was my Cecilia's face!

I was very tired and, throwing myself down upon an oriental couch at the end of the room opposite the organ, tried to rest. It was early summer and the tall, slender windows were

open. Far below the sweet southern garden was all a bloom and the faint night breeze coming from it, stirred the silken curtains at the windows.

Dreamily I lay there, a singular sense of physical comfort upon me. Slowly it came to me that the organ before me was like the one in the picture at Florence. I was too drowsily happy to feel surprise. I noticed, too, that the lights were arranged in such a way as to fall in soft radiance upon the front of the organ.

Then I closed my eyes, and gently, in low whispering cadences as soft as the swish of a sea wave when the air is still, or a ripple of the grass in a slow summer wind, there came to me a sound of music. I held my breath lest the fairy melody be lost. Even the stirring of an eyelid must disturb it. Like the sound of an æolian harp it grew, gently, imperceptibly as the grey of morning changes to glorious day, and then the place was athrob with divinest music.

With every sense I heard it. My whole being reveled in it. I sat up with wide open eyes, every nerve a-tingle with delight. And before the organ, her calm face raised to the light, sat my St. Cecilia!

I felt no surprise. The music was like her. It claimed my whole consciousness just as her picture did. I was happy and that was all. And then lower, softer grew the music, fainter, farther away until it melted into the sweet silence of the summer night.

After awhile something roused me. The wind was blowing. The light above the organ was flaring. I was alone in the room.

In the morning I went down to find a merry group gathered in the hall.

"Jack, this is Muriel Annesly. She is a distant cousin you know. I think you saw her once. Muriel, let me present Jack to you!" I turned to greet my cousin and stood face to face with my St. Cecilia! Last night's mystery was solved.

Aunt moved away and I held out my hand to take the one so timidly extended toward me. "Muriel, did she say? You are a veritable St. Cecilia," I said smiling.

"That was your uncle's name for me. Tell me why?" She raised her calm eyes to mine. Was there a place in these holy eyes for earthly passion?

"My uncle was fond of music; so am I," I ventured. There was no deepening of the pink in her cheek, no faltering of the calm eyes.

Afterward Aunt said to me: "Muriel is considered a great beauty. An artist who saw her in New York last winter said she reminded him of a picture in a gallery at Florence. I meant to write you about it, but I always forgot. My father painted a picture that is there, you know. It is a portrait of Marie Winburn—a girl before an organ. Marie Winburn was my father's cousin and he loved her, but she died unmarried and her twin sister was Muriel's grandmother. They say Muriel is like her and I really see a likeness to the picture in the panel in my brother's parlor."

"It is very curious," I said.

"Yes, it is queer how faces belong to families and are handed down like jewels and heirlooms and—"

"Souls," I interrupted.

"Souls! It's well enough that you have quit those horrid old world countries. Souls! Our men have always been queer. You are not well Jack. Mr. Grille, the lawyer has arrived."

"He has the key to the case. I want it," I exclaimed. But when it was in my hand a singular reluctance to use it took possession of me. I slipped it on my watch chain and waited for a change of mood.

It seemed to me that Muriel was a peculiarly silent girl. Not stupid, certainly, and not exactly shy, but preoccupied and far away. She was my picture in warm flesh and blood, my St. Cecilia come to life, but she was cold and unapproachable. It seemed to me that she must feel the intensity of my love.

Each night I crept to the old parlor and listened to the music. She must not know, my timid sweetheart, that I heard. But one night I opened my eyes to find her standing beside me looking down with soft, pleading eyes. If only they were shy eyes! But they were quite steady, and as she moved I saw a ring on her hand. A circlet of glowing red rubies.

I held out my arms and she drew back and disappeared among the shadows that clung to the walls of the room.

The house being full of young people, it was not easy to find Muriel alone, nor to keep her for more than a moment or so. I dared not speak to her of the music in the old parlor. She seemed so prettily unconscious. But it was a sort of bond between us, and I looked forward to it through each long, bright day.

One night I found her alone on the terrace and she consented to slip away with me to the shadowy old graveyard farther down the quaint, crooked street.

"I shall be able to show you most of the places where our people are buried," she said, as we crept through the jessamine hedge. Clinging closer to my arm she pointed to an old vault. Above it the jessamine flowers shone like white stars. The moonlit night was sweet with their perfume.

"In that vault lies Marie Winburn. A great beauty she was, and a belle in her day. She died young and they say she was laid away with a ring of rubies on her hand and that the woman who wore the rubies always loved the man who gave them to her. But somehow Marie's lover brought them too late. One of the old servants told me that the angels were calling her away and she had promised before her lover came with the ring. The angels took even her fair body to heaven, the old servant said, but I dare say it is crumbling there in the vault with the others. She was my grandmother's twin sister. Sometimes, do you know, I half believe the old story. It is a pretty fancy." She leaned forward, her face quite pale, her eyes dark.

"A ruby ring—you wear rubies."

"Oh, no. One wee pearl, and nothing more."

"If I could find a ring like this that Marie wore—if some how the ring, the very one, came to me and I should bring it to you?"

"I should love you," she said simply, and then the far away look vanished suddenly, she laughed softly and threw back her pretty head.

"Really, we have lingered here too long. Your grandfather's romantic folly has taken hold of your brain. It was he who came so tardily with poor Marie's ruby ring."

"At least I shall not follow his example in that. You'll be waiting, Muriel—you won't promise—"

She laughed nervously. "Really your head is in a bad way, Jack."

"And is yours quite cool?"

"Quite. You have lived too long in those old world cities. I believe you belong to your grandfather's times. You see I'm a common-sense, *fin de siècle* maiden, with no romantic nonsense about me."

"And yet last night when you played for me—" I stopped, dismayed at my boldness. "But it was not last night that I played," she said easily. "I will tonight, however, if you will come away from this gruesome place. You are keeping me away from the others."

"I want to. I should be doing that if you played for me."

"Not in the same way. Come. I shall try the old harp that was mended today."

"The organ—let's slip away to that," I ventured.

"Is there one? Your uncle had me taught, but I did not know that there was one in the house." She had broken off some clusters of the jessamine and white and sweet her face shone above the pure flowers. Watching her and dazed with the mystery I lost control of myself and catching her in my arms I poured out my love in a tempest of passion that frightened her.

She trembled and drew away from me. Then she laughed and said in a playful, nervous way:

"I must wait for the ring, Jack." And then very gravely: "I find no answer in my heart to what you have said to me." Then she turned away and I followed her.

The ring, the ruby ring. Yes, I must bring it to her. I seemed lost in this story. I would find the ring that was buried with the dust of Marie Winburn. A sort of fever burned in my veins.

I watched Muriel with her round white arms across the harp and her quiet, waiting face turned from me. I saw her again as I lay on my couch and she sat at the old organ. What could it mean?

"My darling," I called and she came to me, holding out her hand. I saw the red glow of the ruby ring. As I rose she floated away. Was I dreaming? My head felt dazed and queer.

Next day I went to Dupre, the sexton of the old church beyond the graveyard. He was old and full of histories of people who belonged to long gone generations.

"Where is the resting place of Marie Winburn?"

The old man pointed to the crumbling vault. "They say it is there—my father laid her there, but—"

"Open the vault, Dupre."

He hesitated, and then obeyed. "It was there that she lay," he said. A crumbling coffin, entirely empty filled the space! Was I going mad?

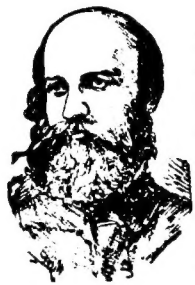
In the evening I saw Muriel hovering about the quaintly carved case by the organ. When I crossed to her, she was gone. Somehow I thought of the key and nervously unlocked the door.

Shall I ever forget the sight that met my hor-

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Maurus Jokai, the famous Hungarian novelist, is a strong illustration of the intense earnestness that seems to distinguish foreign writers. He has been for many years closely identified with the stormy political life of Hungary and his patriotism no less than his literary genius has made him the idol of the Hungarian nation. His genius is varied in its expression as he is a sculptor and painter of no small merit. He is also a naturalist, an astronomer and a gardener. He lives near Budapest during the summer and his rose garden is famous. At the age of seventy-four he still preaches a gospel of work by his indefatigable labor. He rises at six and writes almost constantly throughout the day. During his political life Jokai never abandoned active journalism and at the same time found time to write over two hundred books comprising romances, novellettes, short stories and a few dramas. Among the books that have been translated into English are *Black Diamonds*, *Eyes Like the Sea*, *An Hungarian Nabob* and *the Nameless Castle*. Jokai was left an orphan at the age of twelve. It was a struggle for him to complete a High School course of study but he succeeded and was finally admitted to the bar. He had little liking for the law and abandoned its practice for a literary career. He became editor of a newspaper and led an uprising to release from the fortress of Buda a newspaper man who had been imprisoned for his articles written in defense of Hungarian liberty.

From that time he was one of the leaders of Hungary's struggle against Austria for its ancient right. When the rebellion failed Jokai and his wife escaped in disguise and spent many months in a little hut hidden away in Northern Hungary. He finally gave up the idea of complete independence for Hungary and threw his influence into the compromise of 1867. For nearly forty years Maurus Jokai has been a member of the Hungarian parliament. Since 1896 he has been a member of the House of Lords which is a life office. He was selected to pronounce the funeral oration over the body of Kossuth as it lay in state at Budapest. The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his first book showed Jokai how near he was to the heart of the Hungarian people. Among his gifts were \$80,000 and a hundred paintings representing scenes from his novels, painted by the leading artists of Hungary. It is hard to say whether it is his position in the world of politics or his position in the world of letters that has made Maurus Jokai the popular idol that he is to the Magyar nation.

The royal family of Belgium has been rather tragically conspicuous among the royalties. King Leopold is eccentric to the verge of insanity; the eldest daughter after making two continents ring with her escapades has been confined in a lunatic asylum at the command of the husband whom she deserted. The unfortunate Empress Charlotte of Mexico is the sister of King Leopold. The second daughter is the Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria. The Queen of Belgium by birth is a member of the unfortunate royal family of Austria. She is very popular in Belgium and is noted for her great devotion to all charitable matters. The queen has a great aversion to visiting Paris and although Brussels is but a few hours journey from the gay French capital the queen has been in French territory but once in a quarter of a century. In 1867 her only son the Duke Brabant died very suddenly. At that time it was believed that his death was the result of a political intrigue that aimed to make Belgium a part of France by removing the heir to the throne. The queen believed the tales that are now considered romance and has resolutely refused to set foot in French territory. Her married life has been notoriously unhappy but the queen has borne herself through all her trials like a high minded woman of principle. She is fond of horses and music. She is considered the best four in hand whip in Europe and rides

as well as she drives. She has a thorough knowledge of the art of conjuring and can amuse a company as well as a professional. Her life shows the effort of a bright brave woman to find interests and occupations in the empty splendor of a saddened life.

Miss Melva Wilson is a young Ohio woman who has won recognition in New York. She has the versatile talent that marks so many of the successful women of the day. She writes stories, sketches and poems and illustrates them with great cleverness. She is a descendant of Revolutionary heroes and by birthright and natural instinct is intensely patriotic. Her most successful work is the statue of the Minute Man that now stands in Washington. It is valued at \$30,000 and it is hoped that the government may be induced to purchase it. Miss Wilson obtained permission to work in one of the park buildings of Cincinnati and it was here that the Minute Man was modelled in clay. Prominent business men of the city took an interest in the work and a sum of money sufficient to make a plaster cast of the subject was raised. This cast was unveiled in Miss Wilson's western studio in the presence of President McKinley and a distinguished company of guests. Miss Wilson has also modelled "The Visitation of Saint Cecelia" and "Portia." Her work from ideal subjects is very successful but Miss Wilson has a leaning toward portrait busts. She has executed many orders for these and also for the portrait statuettes, that have become so popular with society women who can afford the luxury of seeing their features reproduced in marble.

The troubles in Samoa are to be adjusted by the members of the Samoan commission. The German member finds himself in a very delicate position but Baron Sternberg has had long experience in diplomatic science. He is a young man but for years has taken an active interest in Samoan affairs and is considered the best posted on the subject of any of the German diplomats. He first came to America in 1890 as military attache of the German Embassy. He is a broad shouldered, fair haired, blue eyed man who gains the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. He has seen service in Peking and was Charge d'Affairs at Belgrade. About a year ago he came again to Washington as first secretary on the staff of the German minister. His election to serve on the commission is considered a great compliment.



"Our Lady of the Snows," as Kipling named our northern neighbor, has given a warm welcome to some of her adopted children. Lord Strathcona of Mount Royal, Canadian High Commissioner to London and multo millionaire is what Canada has made of a plain little Scotch lad. Donald Alexander Smith was born in Morayshire, Scotland nearly eighty years ago. The man who has given nearly \$2,000,000 to Canadian universities received all his education in the schools of his native village. When a boy of eighteen he began the struggle of life in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. He came to Canada and for thirteen years his work kept him in the wild northern wastes of the Labrador coast. Then he was transferred to the Northwest. Slowly he rose from the position of a clerk to the head of the great company. He entered political life in 1869 as a special commissioner of the Canadian government to look into the causes of the Red River rebellion. His thorough acquaintance with northern British America made his services of more than ordinary value. He was soon after elected to a seat in the legislature of Manitoba, and later took a seat in the Dominion parliament which he retained until 1880. In 1887, he again sat in the parliament and on his retirement was made Lord High Commissioner to London. Lord Strathcona received his title in recognition of the value of his public services and benefactions. He advocated the Canadian Pacific railroad and this line was completed through his influence. Lord Strathcona has given liberally to the higher education of women.

Fourteen years ago he gave \$120,000 to found the Donald course for women at McGill University. He is now Chancellor of that widely known institution. He built, equipped and endowed the Royal Victoria College for women giving over \$1,000,000 to this one project. He is President of the Bank of Montreal, and the gray old city is proud to claim Strathcona of Mount Royal as her son.

It is becoming more and more evident to thoughtful people that the problem of the future of the negro race must be worked out by the negroes themselves. Lynchings and riots are on the increase, but side by side with the shadows presented by the race problem are the lights that throw out such a figure as Mrs. Booker Washington and such a work as that of the Tuskegee Institute. This school has grown until it numbers over a thousand young negro men and women. It is in the widely known "black belt" of Alabama and its influence is slowly raising the mass of the people to higher standards of living and thinking. Booker Washington is known throughout the world and his wife is no less worthy of admiration for her share in the great work. Mrs. Washington is a native of Mississippi and was educated at the University. She visits the homes of her race within reach of Tuskegee Institute and carries the industrial work of the school into each house. With broom in hand she demonstrates the first simple lessons of cleanliness and industry. This same woman can instruct a thousand women of her race gathered in the same city to hear her speak. The trustees of the Slater fund have engaged Mr. and Mrs. Washington to speak during the next two years to the colored people of southern cities. The work at Tuskegee is not to be given up but the spare time is to be devoted to this missionary work. Mr. Washington addresses mass meetings of both sexes. He speaks in smaller meetings of teachers and ministers while Mrs. Washington speaks to the women. Mrs. Washington has a strong personality. She is gentle and refined in manners but terribly in earnest as to the future of her race. She represents the best possibility of the Southern negro. She knows the conditions of living and the difficulties in the way, but the missionary work she does shows in the vast influence that Tuskegee has over those who come under its instructions. Industrial education will solve much that is perplexing in the race problem.

Chang-Yi is sometimes called the "coming man" of China. He is chief director of the Chinese Engineering and Mining companies and assistant director of the Imperial Northern railways. He has become very wealthy but foreigners who have met the quiet mannered Oriental believe that his wealth has been honestly acquired. He is fifty years of age, of medium height with a face whose intelligence attracts immediate attention. He is said to be wholly without political ambition but to aim to be the Coal and Iron King of China. He does not speak English but his quick observation enables him to grasp ideas and the general drift of conversation by watching the expression. He often anticipates the explanations of the interpreter. He began his business life as contractor for imperial and public buildings and worked at Peking. He saved his money and invested it in banking. He gradually extended his business interests showing a clear hard-headed talent for practical affairs very unusual in the Flowery Kingdom. He has made every business enterprise with which he is connected yield large returns. Unlike Li-Hung-Chang, he says little, rarely asks questions but still obtains careful information before he acts. He has large executive ability but this has been directed solely to practical business affairs and never to any governmental work.

Prince Min Yong Whan is the new Korean minister to this country. He is closely connected with the royal family of Korea being a first cousin of the king. He sailed for this country in April. Prince Whan speaks English very fluently and stands very high in the esteem of foreigners as well as of native Koreans. He represented Korea as special ambassador at the brilliant ceremonies of the coronation of the Czar and served in a similar

way at the Queen's Jubilee. He is not a stranger in Washington as he came here after the Jubilee and remained a year. His brother will be his first secretary as he also speaks good English.

Mary Lowe Dickenson is in many respects a perfect type of all that is best in American womanhood. Positive without being aggressive, gentle without being weak she has always been a leader and a teacher. She began her life work in a little country village in Massachusetts as the teacher of the village school. She was earnest, progressive and successful to a degree that attracted the attention of educators. She was soon called to the position of head assistant in one of the largest schools of Boston. From this school she went to the Hartford Female Seminary as an assistant principal. When Mary Lowe was twenty-four Vassar College was opened. Miss Lowe was discussed as the probable vice-principal of the new college for women, but she decided to accept an opportunity which offered a three years residence abroad. With a former pupil she spent this time in study and travel. She was just on the threshold of young womanhood and the effect of these three years upon her character was very marked. She returned to this country where she married Mr. Dickenson, who was a wealthy banker.

Her married life was very happy but her husband died and in less than two years after his death his entire fortune was lost. Mrs. Dickenson found herself again dependent upon her own resources and with undaunted courage she took up the work that she had left upon her marriage. Opportunities for usefulness soon presented themselves. Vassar, Wellesley, and the Universities of Denver and Southern California were among the prominent colleges that recognized Mrs. Dickenson's ability by naming her for a position. She finally decided to go to Denver which then had an attendance of more than a thousand men and women. For two years she gave of her best to the students under her care. Many an earnest man and woman to-day remembers with gratitude the inspiration that Mary Lowe Dickenson gave her pupils. She could not stand the climate and reluctantly gave up her congenial field, but the Chair of Literature named for her shows the appreciation of her work by the trustees of Denver University. Since then Mrs. Dickenson has been closely identified with many of the altruistic movements of the day. She organized and extended the International Order of the King's Daughters and has been the General Secretary since 1886. Mrs. Dickenson has been Secretary to the American Bible Society, President of the National Indian Association and of the National Council of Women. Her writings are well known. Both her prose and her poetry have been widely read, for they have the note of absolute sincerity and sympathy with human effort that has made Mary Lowe Dickenson what she is—an earnest, sympathetic woman whose life work has made the world better.



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Folk-tales of our Land.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Now and then American writers have sketched in verse and prose a legend which has immortalized a few of our myths. But aside from Salem witchcraft, when we would identify superstitions with any spot of universal interest we look to the folk lore of Germany, Scandinavia, Russia or perhaps anywhere except at home, when of a truth our Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley and Hudson's banks are fairly lined with these tales of fact and fancy.

Longfellow sings the sad story of Evangeline Bellefontaine and Gabriel Lajeunesse, and tells us how John Alden wooed for another and won for himself. "Tales of the Way Side Inn" bring to view Portsmouth with Martha Hilton and Marblehead with Agnes Surriage.

Hawthorne carries us up Mt. Monroe in quest of the Great Carbuncle, and recalls the rigor of the Puritan governor who hacked down the May pole of Merry Mount. While Washington Irving and Joseph Jefferson introduce us to an ancestor of the Van Winkles of today, the hapless "Rip." But most creepy and uncanny of all comes Ichabod Crane with the galloping Hessian *en trail*. These are the most familiar of American folk-lore because our geniuses have so fascinatingly repeated them.

No race save the Roman has more superstitions than the American Indian, and safe to say no people left behind them so varied a quantity of stories in which we find the foundation of so many legends of more recent origin—one of the prettiest and best known of all is "Hiawatha." According to the Indians the world began when the snake bit off the two lumps of pipe stone, and these receiving life from the Great Spirit walked from the Minnesota Garden of Eden—the redman's Adam and Eve.

"Thundering water" as Niagara Falls was termed, asked for two victims each year. In 1670 or thereabouts the last sacrifice was made when the daughter of the chief of the Onondagas was launched in a white canoe bedecked with lilies and as she went over the falls her father jumped into his canoe and followed her to death. After this his spirit was converted into the ruler of the Cataract and hers to the Maid of the Mist.

The old French legend of the first jacquemint rose undoubtedly had its origin in the Delaware Indian's story of the girl driven distracted by the death of her lover, who stabbed herself and where each drop of blood fell there sprang up the scarlet blossom commonly known as Indian plume.

Our pondlily's white and yellow is symbolic of the purity and love of an Indian maid who true to her own convictions drowned herself rather than yield to Sun, a young warrior whom she loved but who was betrothed to another. The tribe mourned her loss deeply and one day there appeared on the pond a group of lilies, which opened as the sun came and closed at night when the sun had gone. Thereafter the tribe worshiped the lily-form that the girl's spirit took.

The popular New Jersey mosquito claims for an ancestor the monster insect that ate a tribe of Indians at a single meal and used their ribs as toothpicks. It was, however, eventually killed and wherever its blood spattered there came to life the smaller mosquito which mingles pain with the pleasure of a summer twilight.

These and scores of other tales have been brought down through the ages. But while they are simply amusement for us we must not forget how real these tragedies seemed to the Redman whose gospel was the simplest solution of the mysterious—and after all, religious and scientific investigation has taught us no more of heaven than imagination pictured to our savage brother of the happy hunting grounds.

For one reason or another most New England legends follow the shore. Beginning with Maine it is said at Harpswell the fisher-folk are often startled by the appearance of the death ship, similar in appearance to the one Coleridge describes. His phantom vessel glides in and out of the harbor in the course of an evening bringing in its wake always death and disaster.

We must not overlook the ingenious Lewiston hermit who trapped the fifty Indians, causing them all to be drowned.

Deer Island was once in possession of one Swunks who challenged an intruder to mortal combat. Unfortunately for him he forgot his engagement and having imbibed too heavily was killed in his sleep. And to this day summer visitors to the island claim they can hear him snore. Mount Katahdin secretly married a beautiful Indian girl by whom he had a son who later was chief of one of the most powerful tribes. According to some traditions Hiawatha left his marks among others at Bar Harbor where he flung to the ground a

Gallows Hill in Salem was the scene of all kinds of torture for witchcraft, sorcery and anything condemned as "blackart," and is to this day infested with roaming spirits. "Old Meg" lived in Gloucester until she died from a shot fired five hundred miles away. The story runs thus: Two Gloucester soldiers in the siege of Louisburg were troubled by a crow hovering around their heads. And finally they decided it could be no other than the spirit of Meg the witch. So cutting some silver buttons from their coats they fired them and killed the crow. It afterward appeared that old Meg had died at the identical hour and in the autopsy the self same buttons were taken from her flesh.

On a bit of an island off Swampscott shore (Egg Rock) were supposed to grow forget-me-nots of such power that nothing could separate lovers who possessed any of them. Once upon a time a boy started in a dory to gather some for his sweetheart, but a sudden storm arose as he was returning and he was washed ashore at the feet of his love with the forget-me-nots clasped tightly in his hand.

In Boston Harbor is all there is left of a twelve acre island where pirates were hanged.



NATURAL BRIDGE, VA.

Early in the 18th century a captain named Nix was murdered and his mate accused and convicted of the deed. As he went to the scaffold he called on God to prove his innocence by allowing the island to sink and the water cover it. And in the course of a noticeably short time, just that thing happened. Now only a black pyramid stands on the spot to mark the grave of Nix's mate.

In 1834 a skeleton with armor of Phœnician origin was exhumed at Fall River. This was in the locality where Capt. Kidd's treasure was supposed to have been buried. Longfellow has the viking in armor come to life and tell his own story. A captain cruising with his daughter, Judith, is overtaken by a terrific storm. He has lost his course, but the girl sees land. In the fury of the gale she does not hear her father continually asking her where? but finally he makes her hear "Point! Judith, point!" which she does just in time to save them from the reefs which sailors ever since have called Point Judith.

On the Potomac river are three rocks so similar in appearance that they have been named the three sisters and those who live near the shore declare "the sisters" always moan the night before a drowning or sea disaster. At Natural Bridge, Virginia, flows the lost river where all who have ever drank must return sooner or later.

The white mountain range is full of traditions. The Pilot range gets its name from a dog owned by the guide Willard who lost his way and was led by Pilot the dog safely to his own camp. Skinner's Cave was the haunt of a smuggler some of whose goods are supposed even now to be hidden there. Until very recently near Alton, Illinois, a curious relief made by Indians representing a monster called the man-eater could be seen on the bluffs. This was supposed by the natives to be a representation of a creature existing in the age when all animals flew, swam and crawled.

A pretty story is told of the origin of the white fish. A family were carried across a swollen stream by a crane who cautioned them not to touch his head, but curiosity got the better of the mother whom the crane tossed off as a punishment and the scattered brains on the rocks below took the form of the delicate white fish. Many descendants bear the crane as their token to this day.

Among other legends in Detroit comes to us the one about Marie Liebault, a non-believer who was convinced and converted through a wager with a pious old woman who appeared to her after death holding a white phosphorescent light in her hand. Then there's the tale of the Will-O'-The-Wisp that led the young girl to the marsh where she found and released her lover who was caught in the reeds and mire.

The natives of New Mexico believed that when Montezuma left earth he planted a tree saying that when that fell he should come back to earth and for years they kept watch until finally it fell and gathering on the house tops they looked eastward only to see the coming of the white man.

Soon after the first rails were laid in Colorado an old engineer named Edwards had a harrowing experience; as he was flying along he heard a whistle behind, and turning a curve he saw another engine on the same track drawing nearer and nearer. He pulled the throttle wide open and lunged ahead trusting fate to get him to the switch before the rear engine should overtake him, and just as he reached the side track along came the engine snowy white with a dough-faced creature peering wildly out and gesticulating frantically. We don't know what came next, but presume if the railroad company had not built a station at just that point, the phantom "flyer" might still be the terror of the western engineer.



"NIX'S MATE."

moose whose bones may still be seen there. Mt. Kineo was a moose of gigantic size which he turned into an elevation of land. On the Isles of Shoals can be seen dimly at night a pirate's wife who was left to guard a treasure.

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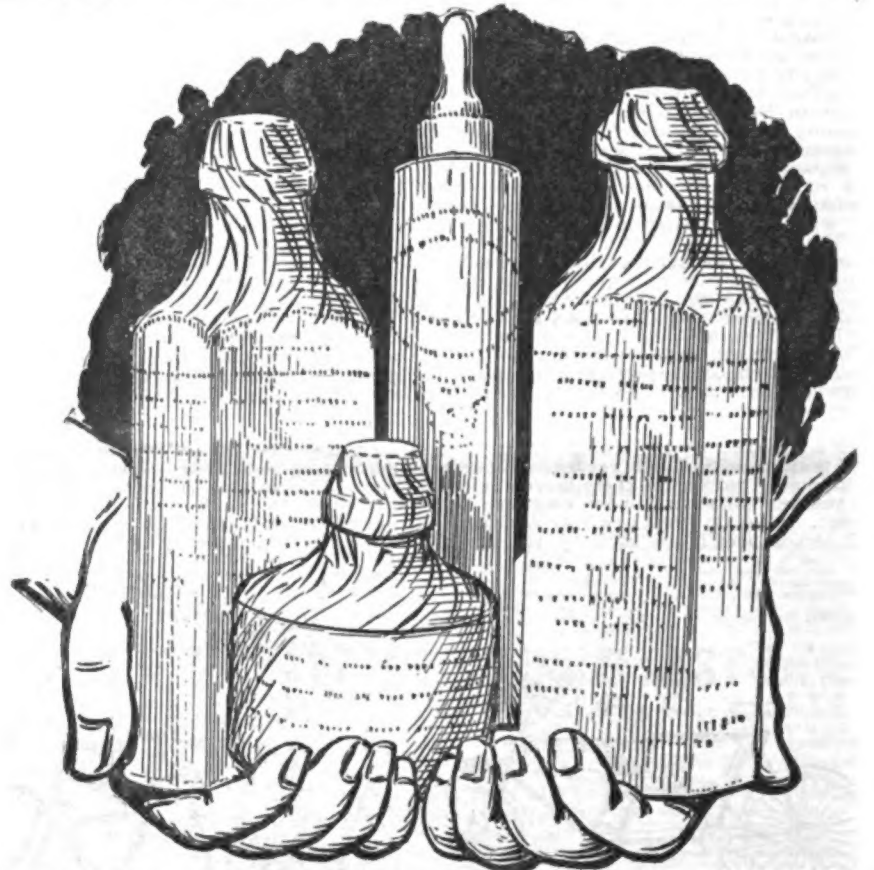
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EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is an honest straightforward offer made by the World's most famous Physician and all readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations as represented in the above illustration, with complete directions, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City.

When Spain controlled the Southwest a regiment was sent from Santa Fe to carry a chest of gold for the soldiers in St. Augustine, and the entire regiment disappeared somewhere on the route as completely as though they had been swept away by supernatural power. Were they annihilated by the Indians? Did they sink in the quicksands; who can reveal? Not a trace of a single soldier has ever been found to tell the tale, and a stream bears the name of River of Lost Souls.

Finally, returning to domestic affairs, the "Baker's dozen," (which is surely a myth in these days) originated with one Van something or other, an Albany baker who suffered under a witch's curse until he consented to call thirteen a dozen.

This sketch is merely a breath of the tales reeking in blood and shrouded in mystery, that have been left for us to solve or exaggerate as we, too, hand them down. And as we emerge from the labyrinth of the romantic world is it not a relief to feel that no banshee can charm away our souls?

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ALTHOUGH the bicycle did not prove of use in the "Yanko-Spanko," war, that does not prove that it is not a valuable adjunct to the soldier. General Miles says: "The results obtained under the most adverse and discouraging conditions prove conclusively that the bicycle will in the future become a most valuable auxiliary in the military operations, not only for courier service but also for rapidly moving organized bodies of men over the country." And under his direction the wheel was put to a series of vigorous tests. Despatch bearers have been sent broadcast from coast to coast and the Gulf to the border mounted on the silent steeds and whole companies of infantry have tried its advantages in field campaigns.

Many experiments have been conducted abroad with a view to establishing the bicycle's exact value and place, but so far not a single country has organized or equipped any considerable portion of its regular forces with the machine though almost all have a small number of men at each garrison who are practised in its use. In England a portion of the volunteer forces are organized as a bicycle detachment and are drilled as mounted infantry. They number about one hundred men and have a battalion organization. Their drill tactics, peculiar to themselves, would hardly receive the commendation of the professional soldier, as the principal features seem intended for spectacular effect and are of little practical value.

In a speech at the banquet of the League of American Wheelmen, General Miles is quoted as saying: "It is estimated that there are in this country a quarter of a million men who are accustomed to ride the bicycle. If out of that number 50,000 men were organized, it would make one of the most effective army corps that was ever marshaled in any country or at any time."

In England the cycle detachment mentioned before has a Gatling gun mounted on a platform placed between four machines, but this would be useless in front of a 4.3-inch breech-loading field piece.

The bicycle railroads are another proof of the onward march of the bicycle principle. Already they have proved profitable speculations on the seashore near New Brighton and on English seashore resorts. Rails are laid on the sands and on them bicycles run, but they are so fixed that no balancing is needed. Thousands of "trippers" patronized these bicycle railways last summer and several new ones are being started. It is said that, as a rule, the cost of each bicycle used is got back by the proprie-

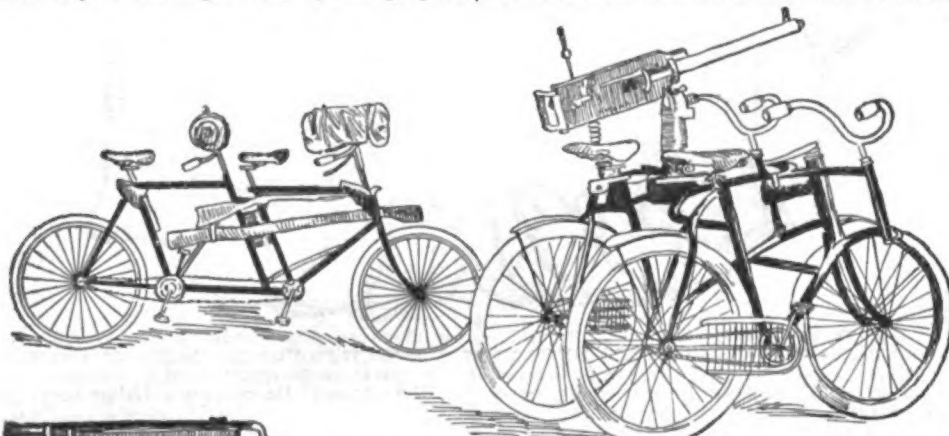
formed of malleable steel and are unbreakable. With electricity you start and stop as slowly as desired, while in the hundred miles or more of flight increasing force may be applied both above and below the train, so as to constantly accelerate the speed—unlike the cannon ball fired across the English Channel, where speed diminishes after the first impact of explosive force.

A new bicycle bell is coming into use, a perfected model of a signal that was used in the old days of the ordinary. It rings continuously by pressing a lever and is operated by a system of strings which when run down are wound by turning the upper half of the gong. This can be done while riding. A new tire bell is also in the market. Pulling a cord brings a wheel in the bell in contact with the front tire and the bell rings continuously until the pressure is removed. Another device is a nickel-plated cannon placed in front of the fork, which emits an ear-splitting squawk when a cord is pulled.

The question of using cycles in the service of the fire brigade has frequently been raised, but little progress has been made in England. Cycling fire extinguishers are, however, used a good deal on the Continent. Milan has cycles fitted with a hand pump and about eight feet of leather hose which is fitted inside the frame of the machine. Another useful idea, which is used at Amsterdam, is a tricycle with a lifeline worked with a sort of pistol, after the fashion of the coast guard's rocket apparatus. This life-saving apparatus reaches the scene of the fire sooner than the ordinary fire escape.

On the police force of several of our large cities bicycles are used instead of horses. Especially in the park systems is this innovation found useful as an officer can rush quickly to the scene of an accident or any disturbance that happens far away from him; in a crowded city street however, the bicycle is scarcely a proper adjunct to a policeman.

It is only a few months now since I wrote of the automobile in its different forms, and predicted that within a year we should see them in quite common use. I scarcely expected, however, they would be so speedily taken into favor in our large cities. In Boston, New York, Chicago and other great cities they have become too common to excite even a passing comment. There are auto-cab companies that run automobile cabs the same as herds and ordinary cabs are run for a dollar an hour. When the electric cab first appeared everybody turned in their carseat or stopped on the street corner to gaze at them—often to the embarrassment of those who had been bold enough to patronize them. But that period quickly passed and today the rider in an automobile cab attracts no more attention than one in an



FIELD GUNS MOUNTED.

tors within a week, so the profits must be considerable.

The "Boynton Bicycle Railway" was the first in this country. It is just being completed in Massachusetts. The cars are run on a single rail, safely guided and propelled by the overhead electric guide rail, which serves the purpose of electrical propulsion, as current conductor, a sort of third rail equivalent, as effective and much safer above than below trains. By leaning this upper guide on approaching curves under the patents granted, these trains round the sharpest curves by actual experiment at from 60 to 100 miles per hour without the least strain or danger, precisely as a bicycle is tilted, and the exquisitely light train is electrically propelled at any speed in a straight line. The inventor claims that he can connect New York and Boston in one hour. He says: "It will not do to tell the public that we can go as fast as a cannon ball or that 25 miles per minute will eventually be attained in my belief, as the possibility of specially constructed needle trains that I have patented, which at that speed would be entirely cushioned upon the air passing beneath their tapered front. The car runs between two steel girders, safely supported between two steel posts and side rails, and thus grooved above and below and surrounded, is as safe as a bullet while passing along the gun barrel. An accident is simply impossible, unless the structure breaks down, as the body of the car is grooved and would slide if the wheels above and below were broken. They are

electric car.

It is predicted by some that the popularity of the automobile will soon pass and that in a couple of years they will be used only for trucking purposes. It will be curious to see whether this is true. The auto-carriage costs more than a horse and wagon at the outset but it is so much less expensive to keep, that where economy is to be considered there is little doubt that it will very soon entirely displace the horse as a working force in the large cities, but for pleasure driving, it is not likely that any combination of electricity and "doughnut wheels" will replace the noble and faithful equine friend of man. Besides, the auto, that "woman can drive" has not yet been built, and that is a consideration.

There are still some who claim that the automobile will replace the bicycle, but this is rank nonsense. I should not want to say the discoveries attendant upon its development may not lead to some new modifications of the wheel, but as for replacing it, never! Those who have become attached to their bicycles—and there are several millions of bicycle riders—will not easily give up the pleasure of skimming along the country like a bird—or a scorcher!—for the more doubtful delight of riding in the cumbersome, ill-smelling automobile. For so long as the machinery is so complex and unwieldy as now, both adjectives are appropriate. And the bicycle is safe.

It is estimated that there have been over a million bicycles sold this year alone, and in spite of the fact that fashionable ladies have rather lost their interest in them, bicycles are being ridden more by the fair sex than ever. In fact women have come to find so much of health and strength by riding the wheel that it will be long before they give up the bicycle—never, indeed, until something is invented that will be a great improvement over them.

Just what this will be is not yet revealed. A perfect means of locomotion would be the flying machine, so perfected that it would not be cumbersome or noisy, and probably somebody will yet succeed in attaching wings to a bicycle so that it will skim over the ground like a bird. Several inventors, indeed, have attempted this and failed. One man in Boston got up

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a wheel by which he could ride out upon the water and thought he would be able to supersede the pleasure boat. But alas! he was drowned on it, almost the first time he ventured out. Just as the Frenchman's horse at the moment when his master had accustomed him to live without eating, "up and died."

But somebody will arise yet, not only to perfect the flying-machine so that it will distance the automobile, but to make the bicycle king of them all, and more than ever a "thing of beauty and a joy forever."

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\$4 a Day Sure made by hundreds of our agents all over the world. Money has been years and make \$10 a day and upwards. We are sole manufacturers and wholesalers of large line of patented easy selling household necessities. Our goods are sold only through our Agents. We give you exclusive territory, instruct you fully and furnish \$2 outfit free. You make \$4 a day sure. We are reliable and mean business. Write today and investigate our offer. **\$2 Outfit Free.** **COMMON SENSE K. CO., 56 Wabash Av., Chicago**

A GREAT LOT OF STORIES FREE

We have just issued a Twenty-Five Cent Book of Splendid Stories, all kinds, representing Love, Romance, Thrilling Adventure, etc., etc. We desire to introduce our publications more widely, and in order to do so will send the whole lot of 105 Stories for only two 2-cent stamps if ordered now. Here are some of the titles of the stories in this great lot:

Katherine's Mistake. Why They Married. The Romance of an Elopement. A Broken Engagement. A Wife's Suspicion. The Deacon's Son. Two Jealousies. Two of a Kind. Margery's Lover. Hard Luck of an Infant. Her Mission. Little Girl in Blue. The Tables Turned. What Was It? The Freckle-Faced Girl. Gilbert Hartnett's Choice. A Noble Sacrifice. Mr. Wilton's Office Boy. Viscount Madcap. At Last.

From Jest to Earnest. Mrs. Brown's Burglar. Engaged a Governess. Her Wedding Day. Why He Proposed. Mother's Outing. A Man of Honor. Her "Fate." Easy to Forget. The Pursuit of Beauty. Mother's Outing. Outwitting Fate. Viola Hasted's Lover. Lost and Found. A Lingering Love. Caught at the Quack. Vivian's Lover. Love and a Glance. Between Two Fires.

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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth. a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on your Silverware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and permanent. Can be used on any metal or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Cleanses skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.

Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surfaces. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entire worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make \$100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Seeks like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied. **SUNSHINE, BOX 351, AUGUSTA, MAINE.**

FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgia Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating your self for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage. Address **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 982 Augusta, Maine.**

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Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for \$1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

RECENT PATENTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

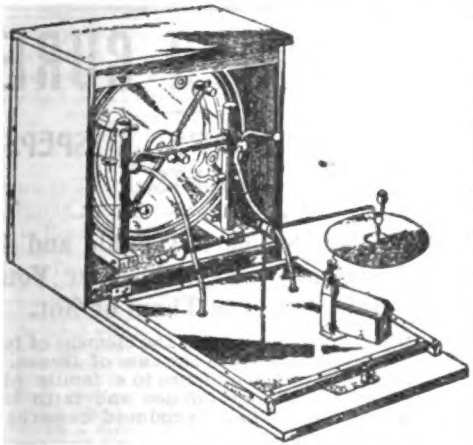


EACH month Uncle Sam grants about sixteen hundred patents to ingenious persons who have new ideas to offer, and in the collection there are always a number of very interesting suggestions, mechanical and otherwise. Naturally, a good many of the inventions thus placed on record are somewhat nonsensical, but even these cannot well be altogether absurd, inasmuch as a contrivance must at all events seem to be useful and practical before the examiners will accept it, with guarantee of exclusive rights to the originator. Indeed, the Patent Office may be said to be a custodian of the record of the progress of the age, and its archives are illuminated by the creative thoughts of each succeeding generation.

One of the notable inventions recently was a process for manufacturing artificial fur, devised by George R. Sheville, of New York City. The idea of it is to produce at small cost a material closely resembling animal fur, with a backing of woven cloth, and this is accomplished in a very simple way—namely, by placing a loose mass of animal hair, or down, close up against the mechanism that forms the web of the cloth, so that into each loop of the fabric a small quantity of hair or downy filaments is taken. The thread that weaves the cloth works through the hair or down, so that the latter is incorporated with the resulting textile. Then the cloth is shrunk, so as to bind the filaments tightly in its meshes, and the final product is an exquisite fur-like stuff, which may be fur of elderdown, fur of lambs' wool, or fur of what one pleases, the process furnishing at a cheap rate exquisite materials for garments or what not.

An inventor named West Dodd, of Des Moines, Iowa, has patented an apparatus for imitating thunder and lightning with real electricity. It is portable, and, when opened out by throwing down the front of its leather case, it reveals a miniature landscape, in which the principal feature is a small wooden church. Above the sacred edifice hangs an ominous artificial cloud, in the shape of a disc of zinc, and this is connected by a wire with an electric generator which occupies the body of the leather case. When a crank is turned, the destructive fluid is discharged from the zinc cloud upon the church, and would rip the latter to pieces, were it not protected by a lightning-rod. When the rod is disconnected, damage results. As the reader will already have surmised, this contrivance is intended to be carried about by lightning rod agents, who by its help will be enabled to bring conviction to the mind of the most reluctant customer.

Women have a great deal of trouble in drying



THUNDER AND LIGHTNING APPARATUS.

their hair, when they wash it, and those who possess luxuriant tresses occasionally threaten to cut them off on this account. It is one of the reasons why the average man is not ambitious to be a woman; but this feeling may be done away with by a patent hair dryer just devised by John W. Hillerman, of Lyons, Kas. It consists of a sort of metal box, into which the lady inserts her head, while she sits in a chair for the purpose. The box is elevated on a stand behind her, and she reclines in an easy pose while subjecting her hair to the drying influence of a sort of stove concealed in the apparatus and heated by an oil lamp. Persons of the gentler sex who hang their "glory" on the gas fixture when retiring will have little use for this mode of procedure.

Strength of the fingers and long reach between thumb and little finger are greatly desired by learners on the piano, and these desiderata are aimed at by two new inventions. One of them is a so-called "hand extender," patented by Frederick L. Crane, of Malden, Mass. It consists of a screw about a foot in



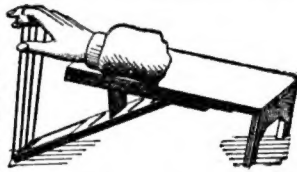
HAIR DRYER.

length, on which are fixed two loops, one to hold the little finger and the other for the thumb. By turning the screw, the distance between thumb and little finger is increased, and the process, often repeated, stretches the hand, so as to render it capable of covering more keys. As an adjunct to this apparatus may be employed the finger strengthening machine

invented by Walter Bowney, of Utica, N. Y. It consists, mainly, of a sort of inclined plane, on which one rests the arm, while the fingers, inserted in loops at the ends of four elastic cords, are worked up and down and thus exercised by overcoming the resistance of the india-rubber.

Mosquito canopies are always a bore, and the thanks of a grateful public will go out to Thomas J. Powers, of Steubenville, O., who has contrived a wire apparatus of this sort for bedsteads, which when one is ready to seek repose in the arms of Morpheus, folds down and encloses one in a mosquito-proof box. There is no trouble about mosquitoes crawling up underneath the bar, or making their way through meshes that happen to be extra large. The apparatus is warranted to keep them out absolutely, so that the sleeper may compose himself regardless of the midnight song, and in the morning he has simply to unfold the apparatus by a jerk or two and step forth.

For country fairs particularly is designed a new style of popcorn popper, invented by Solomon C. Brinsner, of Middletown, Pa. It will pop several bushels of the grain at once, without burning so much as a kernel, a special contrivance keeping the corn agitated. Power is furnished by a belt, and the whole affair is said to be very inexpensive.

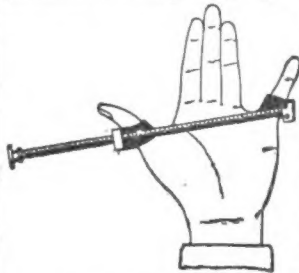


FINGER STRENGTHENER.

For farmers' use is a novel contrivance in the way of an egg tester, which is a box having a mirror for its bottom and two oval holes in its top for eggs to be placed in. The reflected light thrown upward by the glass causes the eggs to appear clearly translucent if they are fresh, while, if otherwise, they will be more or less opaque. This, it should be explained, is the invention of Carl H. Anderson, of Kenosha, Wis.

Nowadays people live so fast that they have hardly time to die, much less to be buried, and therefore a boon is bestowed by the invention of James Paugh, of La Grange, Ky., which has for its object the filling of graves and the making of neat mounds over them by machine. No sooner is the defunct safely lowered than the hole in the ground is filled in, and the mortuary decencies are made complete, without a minute's annoying delay. This device is supplemented by what is termed an "imitation gravestone," originated by Hugh Campbell of Manchester, N. H. It looks like marble, but in reality is a shell of iron, so as to be comparatively cheap. If desired, a photograph of the dear departed may be inserted in a frame in the front, just below the inscription.

Frank H. Collins, of Everett, Mass., has just patented an "earphone," (see initial) which is an application of the principle of the telephone to a contrivance for helping deaf people. A small battery and coil are carried in the breast pocket of the coat, and the transmitter attached thereto is hitched to the lapel of the same garment, just like an eyeglass. When the



HAND STRETCHER.

deaf man desires to listen to anybody's conversation, he simply hands the transmitter to the person and gives his attention, a supplementary pair of wires connecting the battery with a little instrument which hangs over the rim of the ear and enters its orifice. Recently, by the way, a man named Henderson has made a discovery which seems likely to prove a remedy even for total deafness, a telephonic system being employed. He got his suggestion from the use by telephone girls of apparatus fixed to their heads.

The woes of the women who cannot keep their back hair together have inspired an invention of which Robert F. Toechtermann, of London, is the author. He has newly patented the device in this country. It is a very complicated comb, which holds up the coil, retains the shorter hairs of the neck, and performs other offices of the same kind, so that no lady provided with one of these ornamental appliances need feel nervous lest the loss of a switch, the exposure of a rat, or the coming undone of an accidental curl cause her embarrassment. In a word, her coiffure, thus protected, will never come to look like a last year's bird's nest—which reminds one of a novel style of hen's nest patented by Arthur D. Worley, of Iron Hill, Md., whose contrivance closes the entrance to Biddy's bed when she is "on," thus keeping other hens from intruding or laying eggs beneath her when she is setting.

Machines have been made recently for cracking nuts with such ease and accuracy that anybody may now buy at the grocery shops



A USEFUL COMB.

Nathan O. Bond, of Hyannis, Mass., has invented an automatic egg boiler, which, by the aid of a spring catch adjusted in connection with a clockwork mechanism, pulls the eggs out of the water when they are cooked. Within a comparatively short time butter packages, somewhat similar in idea to the familiar pasteboard egg crates, have come into use, and the latest of these is the idea of John W. Barnes, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio. The butter crate is made up of a series of pasteboard compartments, each holding exactly one pound. Thus there is no lumping of the product in transit, and on its arrival at the market, it is in condition to be sold without cutting, each pound piece being done up neatly in a piece of cheesecloth. Lastly, among the inventions of the month

\$2,000 PAINTING FOR 10 Cts.

A Beautiful Reproduction in ALL the Colors of the Original THE PICTURE.

THE PICTURE.

Last spring we purchased for \$2,000.00 the noted oil painting entitled "Unexpected Trouble," or "The First Swim," by Fred Morgan, Esq. of the British Royal Academy. The size of the original canvas is 31 1/2 by 42 1/2 inches. A corps of artists have prepared a reproduction of this noted work in exact imitation of the original, every color and shade of color being faithfully reproduced. As a result, we can offer an exact reproduction of this noted painting in a size 19 by 25 inches, printed on heavy coated paper. A great many cheap reproductions of works of art have been scattered over the country. This, however, is not of this character. In addition to the original outlay we have incurred an immense expense in securing this reproduction, and we have no hesitation whatever, in recommending it most highly.



Copyright, 1898, George S. Graves. Actual Size, 19x25 inches.

"Unexpected Trouble."

The Wonderful \$2,000 Oil Painting by the Noted English Artist, Fred Morgan.

THE ARTIST.

The original painting is by the eminent English painter, Mr. Fred Morgan, who is considered the most perfect delineator of children now living.

Following is a letter from Mr. Morgan, to whom one of the reproductions was submitted:

MONTROSE VILLA, ST. BONIFACE ROAD, VENTNOR, AUG. 16, '98.

"It is a most admirable copy of my original, quite one of the most satisfactory reproductions I have ever had, giving the exact drawing and color, and almost the touches of the brush. In some senses too faithful, as it brings to my memory the difficulties of getting the baby boy to pose, and the worry of the ducklings."

"The incident was years ago, when I was a child in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, just celebrated for its ducks and butter. I used to see the hen-wife bring the young ducks as soon as hatched and toss them into the farm pond, and as the scene interested me then I thought it worth reproducing."

"The greater part of my life has been passed in the country, and all of my pictures are of domestic scenes in the open air."

"Yours faithfully, FRED MORGAN."

THE THEME.

In the foreground is an old hen greatly excited because she cannot swim, and her foster brood of ducklings gleefully watching the predicament of the hen is a little child held up by a doting grandmother. The whole picture is full of life, and appeals to every one at first sight.

AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFER. our National semi-monthly, already has a circulation of nearly 300,000. We wish to treble this number before January 1st, next, as we have determined to start 1900 with at least 1,000,000 circulation. We therefore make the following offer:

"UNEXPECTED TROUBLE," a beautiful colored picture, worth at least \$1.00 FARM AND HOME to Jan. 1st., 1900 (regular subscription price 50 cts. per year) .15

(We thus give you \$1.05)

Total, \$1.15

BOTH FOR ONLY 10 CENTS.

HOW WE DO IT. your gain. We lose heavily at first on every one who accepts this offer. While our present loss is Home that you will become a permanent subscriber, and to accomplish this, we are willing to lose by your acceptance of this unprecedented offer now. Not necessary to write a letter. Slip 10 cts. into an envelope with your name and address, mail it to us, we will do the rest.

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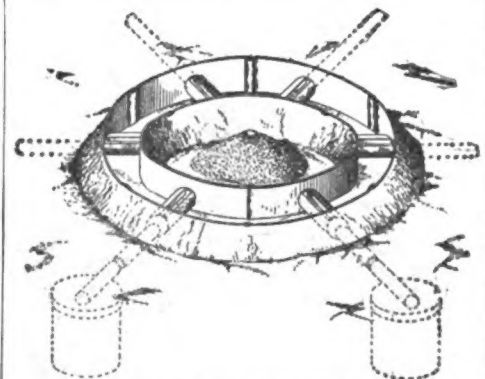
Address all orders to

FARM AND HOME---Springfield, Mass., or Chicago, Ills.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

just passed, may be mentioned a peculiar ant trap contrived by Bogan B. Cash, of Wayland, Tex. Everybody, and particularly every housewife, knows how annoying ants sometimes make themselves, and hence the interest attaching to this peculiar form of snare. As shown in the picture, it is placed so as to encircle an anthill, the owners of which are to be



A PECULIAR ANT TRAP.

destroyed. The insects are led by tubes, in the manner indicated in the drawing, from the nest into tin cans sunk in the ground, which are partly filled with kerosene, and in this manner they are wiped out wholesale.



FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 6c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.



You Learn in a Moment What It Takes a Teacher Months to Explain to You.

old and new favorites, and war songs. We will send this CHART OF CHORDS and the GIANT ALBUM OF 194 SONGS, with "COMFORT" for six months for only 25 cents in postage stamps or silver. Address

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Length 15 inches. Weight one-half pound. Burns 100 times with 3c worth of oil. No kindling. Pile the fuel over the blazing kindler and the fire is built. Saves hours of time and gallons of oil. Warranted 12 years. Greatest seller for agents everywhere. Average county yields agent \$100 profit. Act quick if interested. Sample prepaid with terms 25 cents. YANKEE KINDLER CO., BLOCK 10, OLNEY, ILLINOIS

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.

PAT'D QUAKER FOLDING VAPOR BATH CABINET \$26,000 SOLD. Every home should have one for bathing purposes. It opens the millions of pores, forces out the poisons which cause disease. Makes you clean, vigorous and healthy. Prevents disease. Provides Turkish, hot air and medicated baths at home, 3c. each. Beautifies complexion. Recommended by best physicians. Without drugs it cures bad colds, rheumatism, lagrippe, neuralgia, obesity, female ill, all blood, skin, nerve and kidney troubles. Guaranteed. Our new 1900 Style has a door, a self-supporting frame, best material, rubber-lined. Folds small. Weight 5 lbs. Price complete \$5.00. Write us. Valuable book, etc. free. Agents wanted, men and women, \$100.00 a month and expenses. Address B. WORLD MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio. We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.

A Child's Set of DRESS PINS with chain is a great comfort to any mother and a neat and pretty affair for the child to wear. These gold plated Dress Pin Sets are being sold at jewelry stores for 50c. each, but being anxious to introduce our monthly into new homes we bought several thousand sets of these fine chain pins and will send one set free to all who enclose 17c. for a special trial six months' subscription to "COMFORT." Two sets and a year's subscription for 25c. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

EASY MUSIC CHEAP. COMFORT'S NEW CHART OF CHORDS for the PIANO. A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher. There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling anyone to play the piano or organ at sight. This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart anyone can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere. To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send free with each chart the "CHART ALBUM OF SONGS," containing 184 songs with words and music, including the great hits, "Y Won't be a Nun?" and "The Mountain Maid's Invitation." Also

AFFAIRS IN OUR COLONIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

AS the rainy season is at its height in the Philippines, there has been but little action on the part of our soldiers for the past month, but still once in a while the Filipino insurgents make an outbreak and compel a short fight, which invariably results in their retreat leaving a number of dead behind them. Generally these attacks have been on small garrison towns where our soldiers are encamped and are in the nature of surprises. Even if successful, these movements would serve for nothing excepting possibly to encourage the natives and possibly give the insurgents some much needed supplies. Fighting excepting in a guerilla style in the jungle is out of the question at this season.

Notwithstanding this comparative quiet and practical cessation of active hostilities, many events have transpired in the past month of more or less importance and interest in connection with our present foreign policy, which will be read with interest by the readers of COMFORT, who have signified so much pleasure in these brief articles which have appeared regularly since the commencement of our war with Spain.

The most noticeable act of the past month was the resignation of Gen. Russell A. Alger, as Secretary of War. When Gen. Alger was appointed to the cabinet position which he has occupied, the thought of a foreign war was not in any mind. It will be remembered that he was a soldier of the Civil war and had risen to a commanding position. After leaving the army he became one of the



GEN. RUSSELL A. ALGER.

lumber kings of the northwest and from his home in Detroit, Mich. entered into many successful business enterprises. He has served as governor and was a strong candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in two national conventions. In Detroit he is known as a very able and very philanthropic man. Whatever may have been the cause, the war department was found full of incompetency, when actual hostilities broke out, and many scandals of greater or less magnitude were printed by the newspapers in exaggerated form. While by no means an excitable people, Americans are fond of sensations; and overlooking the wonderful fact of a totally unprepared country rushed into a needless war and successfully putting an army of 300,000 fully equipped and drilled men into the field in less than three months, they magnified the shortcomings. In such cases the blame naturally falls on the head officer, and Gen. Alger, in spite of his great successes and his exertions has been singled out as the cause for all disaster. As a consequence his position in the popular estimation has been that of an incompetent and weak man stubbornly holding to a place for which he was incompetent. Undoubtedly this has been much exaggerated and that the sins of others have been laid to him; that he has been the "scapegoat," but it is impossible that his resignation should not be a relief to the administration, on which he had become a serious load, as well as to the people generally, who had come to blame him personally for each and every fault of army administration.

The press quite generally through the country had loudly demanded Alger's resignation. So there was no great surprise after many reports and denials of his intention to resign, when it was ascertained that he had gone to the coast of New Jersey to consult with the Vice President concerning the matter. Many stories have been told as to what took place upon his return to Washington. The current belief is that he asked the President to make a public statement that his administration had been satisfactory, and upon a refusal he had tendered his resignation to take effect at the President's pleasure. One thing that recently added to the strained relation was an alliance in Michigan politics between Gov. Pingree, an avowed enemy of President McKinley, and the war secretary for the purpose of electing the United States senator to succeed McMillan.

This resignation which was immediately accepted to take effect August 1, caused quite a general call that the place be given to Governor Roosevelt of New York, as a man capable of reforming the war bureau; but the President selected for the high honor Elihu Root of New York City and the appointment met with general approval by all but the "yellow" papers, which are pleased with nothing.

Secretary Root was born in 1845, and is the son of a then professor of mathematics in Hamilton college. He is one of the most celebrated lawyers of the American bar and has appeared in some of the largest cases. Both in business and social interests he is looked upon as one of the most influential persons in the great metropolis. Mr. Root has held one or two terms as district attorney but has been averse to holding public office. He was offered the Spanish mission previous to Gen. Woodford's appointment and also the Secretaryship of the Interior, both of which he declined. It was only on great pressure that he consented to accept what is now considered the most responsible seat in the Cabinet. Secretary Root is an enthusiastic outdoor sportsman and is noted for extreme affability in manner and address. As many difficult legal problems will confront the administration in the government of our colonies, and as they come under the direction of the Secre-



SECRETARY ELIHU ROOT.

tary of War until Congress shall decide otherwise, it is believed the right man is now in the right place.

Much interest attaches itself to the career of Joseph Wheeler, the noted Confederate general who left his seat in Congress to join the army in Cuba, and who was appointed a General of cavalry by President McKinley. The return of the soldiers from Cuba brought his military services to a close for the time being; but with the increase of the volunteer army now going on, his services came into immediate requisition and to the general delight of the country he was given orders to report for active duty to Gen. Otis at Manila. He left immediately for San Francisco from whence he sailed for the seat of war by first steamer. Wherever he may go we may be sure to hear of good, hard fighting.

Before sailing he gave utterance to a public statement which has commanded the highest attention, partly from the fact that it accords with the general sentiment, but more from the prominent position he holds as a former confederate leader and a politician whose party is opposed to the present administration. In his statement General Wheeler said that he was gratified to find that the sentiment here was apparently unanimous of sustaining the course of the administration in the Philippines.

In the East, he said, there was a small faction opposed to the government and work of its writers and speakers had undoubtedly prolonged the war. Although these people are few in numbers, they are capable of much mischief. In fact, Aguinaldo has already, in an address to his followers, made capital to this apparent discontent with the conduct of the campaign.

"This is a people's war," added the general, "more a people's war than any other in the history of this country. The people are behind the president and want the contest carried to its logical conclusion. I hope for active service in the Philippines, but have not yet been assigned to any particular duty. My orders are simply to report to Major-General Otis at Manila."

As many of the volunteer regiments are now returning to the Pacific coast and are received with great enthusiasm, it is, perhaps, the proper place to call notice to the attention which is being paid General Otis by the newspaper press. The returning soldiers are full of criticism as to his methods, claiming that he fights, wins, and then gives up; and that under such leadership it will take 20 years to capture the islands. These and many other criticisms have been made. Unfortunately for him just as the air was full of these criticisms several reputable correspondents of the largest papers signed a "round robin" charging him with suppression and falsification of news and of a general plan to deceive our people as to the real condition. This was telegraphed from Hong Kong. Its publication caused a half panic which quickly subsided but has left the people in a state of anxiety, while part of the press calls for another general and more decisive measure.

The returning soldiers praise Gen. Lawton



GENERAL LAWTON.

without stint and it is believed that should a change become necessary either Gen. Miles will assume charge or Lawton will be appointed to the Philippine command. Many feel that Gen. Otis could be made Governor of the Islands; and that Lawton could have a successful military command without harm to Otis' reputation. The successful military career of Gen. Lawton is so well known by the public that we refrain from repeating it here.

The country is taking the deepest interest in the new regiments of volunteers now being formed to take the place of the returning soldiers and to reinforce Gen. Otis.

These regiments are raised at various recruiting points and organized at some of the larger camps. They do not have state names but the regimental numbers follow those of the regiments of the old regular army in consecutive order. The officers for these regiments are taken by the President from those that have seen service and whose records entitle them to the distinction. The criticism thrown at young officers in the Spanish war of appointment solely as a political favor cannot exist. Commissions are dealt out only to those apparently worthy and the surprises show that they seem to be given strictly on merit. The higher officers will be detailed from the old regiments of the regular army to considerable extent.

For many years there have been efforts made to induce our American government to connect the continent with Hawaii, but Congress

has never been ready to appropriate sufficient money for the purpose. The developments of our Spanish war, the Samoan rebellion and other matters have shown the necessity of quicker communication between the islands of the Southern Pacific ocean and other civilized lands; so that the British government has taken measures to push forward the great enterprise of laying the first long cable in the Pacific.

The survey steamer Egeria arrived in Esquimaux, B. C., in the earlier part of July having completed her work of surveying and sounding for the proposed cable. The English and Canadian governments working together will lay this wire from British Columbia to Australia, touching on the way both the Hawaiian and Samoan groups. It was felt to be desirable to take a few more soundings; accordingly the steamer soon left on an outward trip to Honolulu and Apia, from thence to sound to the nearest safe point in Australia. The final survey having been taken the work of laying the cable itself will be rushed forward. While it would be better to have this wire under our own government, the situation, with quick communication established, will be vastly improved.

The commission returning from Samoa shows that everything has worked harmoniously there. The three nations involved have agreed to abolish a native kingship and it is probable that there will be a native government, carried on under the direction of a commission or governor, not a native. It is hoped that future rebellions have been prevented and that a stable government will be established. Recognizing America as a power with great interests in the Pacific, both the British and German governments seem anxious for us to assume the control of the Samoan group, practically leaving them to us; but so far as it appears the general sentiment of the press is not in favor of further acquisitions until we have Americanized what territory has come to us during the past year. A thing which had not been previously thought of now appears in the announcement that it is found that the cession of the Philippine Islands brings to the general government as spoils some 35,000,000 acres of public land largely inhabited, but fertile and often desirable. There will have to be a home-stand scheme to meet the conditions as the standing laws are not applicable. To encourage colonization the usual period of five years actual cultivation now necessary to ownership may be reduced to three or even two years. It is hoped that negro emigration may follow and secure the happiness of a large number of black men now in our southern states. It is thought the negro's knowledge of advanced modern agriculture will largely assist in lifting up the Malay agriculturalists.

The convention at The Hague which was called at the instance of the Czar of Russia for consideration of the Czar's suggestion that increase of military forces in any nation should now stop and gradual disarmament commence, has at length dissolved. The convention has been a very successful one and has been instructive to the world in showing the advanced

attitude of modern civilization towards the matters concerning universal peace. Of course actual disarmament is at present impossible, but the work of this world's convention which has been signed by all the powers in the convention has placed arbitration of quarrels very much to the front. A permanent tribunal has been suggested and agreed to by which, without intervening, the powers will offer friendly services and mediate quarrels before the two contending nations shall resort finally to arms.

Many additional matters were brought up relative to the safety to individual property when on the high seas in time of war; the workings of the Geneva Red Cross, and many other things which have been taught by civilization and are in the line of progress and enlightenment.

Many of our readers have seen notices of the advanced position of England and America which has brought very much criticism upon them by the press of other nations relative to the refusal of either of these nations to be in any way bound by a decree which was sought to be established by this convention, concerning the suppression of further

warlike inventions, and especially of the dum-dum bullet. Regarding this latter there has been the widest criticism and charges of barbarism and lack of progress against these two great nations.

The position taken by our delegates in this great congress as well as those representing Great Britain was that they would in no way restrict the invention of more warlike articles, holding to the ground that war should be made so terrible that nations would not only hesitate but almost refuse to enter into it, and that the more dangerous and destructive weapons were produced by the inventive genius of either country, so much the surer was that country to remain at peace with all the world. This broad view is mostly contended against and seemed particularly distasteful to the less inventive nations that were represented. The reproach which was endeavored to be placed on these countries, especially regarding the dum-dum bullet, is explained from the fact that all the civilized nations are against explosive bullets. The tendency of modern small arms has been to make a bullet which would be small and destructive, and when striking the victim if it did not at once kill him would cause but a small wound which would easily heal. The dum-dum bullet, on the contrary, is made of soft lead and covered with copper or nickel partly. It is of such peculiar make up that when it strikes it spreads and makes a very severe and shattering wound breaking whatever bones it reaches badly and lacerating

the flesh itself. It is one of the most barbarous inventions of modern times, but is defended by these very advanced countries on the idea that they both have large colonial possessions and must constantly be at war with barbarous or semi-barbarous tribes, and that all rules of ordinary civilized warfare are lost on these people who would not be bound by the rules of civilized warfare or submit to them, and that more brutal force is needed in subduing them; so that in fighting such tribes, civilized countries must be armed in the most destructive manner in order to make whatever lesson is administered unnecessary of repetition in the future.

The Olympia, bearing Admiral Dewey homeward, is at this writing in the Mediterranean Sea. At the several places at which he has stopped Admiral Dewey has been received with most enthusiastic demonstrations of good will both to himself and to his nation. This action on the part of European citizens is highly pleasing to Americans who appreciate the attention shown to our great naval hero. It is now understood that on his arrival in America, which will be near the first of October, the North American squadron under Admiral Sampson is to meet the Olympia at some designated point and escort her to New York.

Here a demonstration will take place which in extent and magnificence will be unrivaled in any modern event of similar nature, with the possible exception of the great days of the Queen's jubilee in London a few years ago. Immense preparations for the demonstration are already under way, and a temporary triumphal arch costing \$50,000 is one of the features. This is to be replaced later by a permanent arch of the same formation which will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, the work of which is to be given by Italian sculptors without cost. The display of electrical illumination on the great occasion will be the most wonderful thing ever seen. Brooklyn bridge is to be converted into a complete mass of electrical light to be shown every evening; while it is expected every pier and warehouse will be covered with similar lights for the greatest night of the celebration. Readers who have ever seen New York at night from either river with its wonderful display of tall buildings lighted by electricity and the myriads of colored lights from the water's edge and upon the bosoms of the two rivers, may form some idea of the grand spectacle which will be given in this display. Aside from this there are to be parades and decorations without number.

After the New York display, Admiral Dewey is to go to Washington to be entertained by the president and heads of departments. There will be a repetition of the New York display on a lesser scale. Here the Admiral will be presented with the \$10,000 sword appropriated by Congress in honor of him and his victory in Manila Bay. The sword and its elaborate scabbard were made by Tiffany at a cost of over \$3,000. The balance of the appropriation is to be devoted to medals for himself, officers and men, all of which will be distributed at that time.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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NO FAITH CURE

ABOUT STUART'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS.

They Cure Stomach Trouble and Indigestion Anyway, Whether You Have Faith in Them or Not.

All physicians agree that the element of faith has a great deal to do in the cure of disease. Firm belief and confidence in a family physician of the same confidence and faith in a patent medicine have produced remarkable cures in all ages.

This is especially true in nervous troubles, and no field offers so prolific a harvest for the quack and charlatan as the diseases arising from a weak or run down nervous system.

Nevertheless, the most common of all diseases, indigestion and stomach troubles which in turn cause nervous disease, heart troubles, consumption and loss of flesh, requires something besides faith to cure.

Mere faith will not digest your food for you, will not give you an appetite, will not increase your flesh and strengthen your nerves and heart, but Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will do these things, because they are composed of the elements of digestion, they contain the juices, acids and peptones necessary to the digestion and assimilation of all wholesome food.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will digest food if placed in a jar or bottle in water heated to 98 degrees, and they will do it much more effectively when taken into the stomach after meals, whether you have faith that they will or not.

They invigorate the stomach, make pure blood and strong nerves in the only way that nature can do it, and that is from plenty of wholesome food, well digested. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that does us good.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists at 50 cents for full sized package.

Little book on cause and cure of stomach troubles mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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Send stamp for application blank with full particulars. Local Agents Wanted to handle "Life of Dewey" and Philippine War Book. Big Pay. The Bible House, 501 Monon Bldg., Chicago, Ill.



Editor's Note. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third	2.00
4th.	" " fourth	1.50
5th.	" " fifth	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Loula K. Rogers,	\$3.00
J. W. Cole,	2.50
Ella S. Cooper,	2.00
Marion Johnson,	1.50
Mrs. A. A. Watkins,	1.00

"September strews the woodland o'er
With many a brilliant color;
The world is brighter than before,
Why should our hearts be duller?
Sorrow and the scarlet leaf,
Sad thoughts and sunny weather!
Ah me! this glory and this grief
Agree not well together."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Thus Nature never repines over the loss of bee and bird and flower. She goes steadily on with her appointed task.

Each day has its work, and no matter how much is taken from her she does her best with what remains. Though all bright flowers and all sweet songs are forsaking her she clothes herself in gaily colored leaves and never falters in her useful toil. So let us, as friends depart and losses come, show to others a bright face, and go calmly on doing our part in this world's work, remembering that trials are not sent us to brood over, but to lift us up, to broaden and deepen our characters, and so, if we will only let them, to enable us the sooner to do the work for which we were placed here and to fit us for the life to come.

"Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Finds us farther than to-day."

Now to our letters, the first one of which holds us still in the departing summer for one more ramble in the piney woods.

"Did you ever take a horseback ride all alone among the pines of southern Georgia? If not you have missed one of life's weird, mystic poems that breathes in its solemn grandeur a sublimity just the reverse of the ocean's wild roar. For miles and miles level white roads bordered with green verdure wind through the forest, which is scattered ever in spring with thousands of starry-eyed phlox blooms of every conceivable color. Shining through the trees here and there is a spreading brooklet which in the low country widens until it becomes a clear, still lake, through which your horse tramps very leisurely, and in summer, like an experienced toper, insists on taking a drink.



AMONG THE GEORGIA PINES.

"While listening to the dreamy minor notes of the waving pines one's reveries suddenly comes to an end by the glimpse of a dark, lazy alligator stretched full length on the trunk of an ancient cypress that has fallen in the miniature lake. Just to try his agility he sticks in that direction, and glancing toward you as if he considers you very presumptuous, he slowly turns, and, without any rash haste, deliberately lets himself down into the water and crawls into his subterranean apartments.

"A little farther on we join a party en route to the beautiful Ocmulgee to take a peep into our fish baskets. *Mirabile dictu!* There safely ensconced in the base of the conical trap we find a large cat fish weighing twenty-five pounds! Having been reared in middle Georgia, it was the first time I had ever seen such a monster. Around him were several smaller ones, which to us were immense, but this aquatic king, what shall we do with him? Finally we decided to bake his majesty, but when the cook prepared him for the roaster, his dimensions forbade his entrance and he had to be quarantined.

"The lofty pine, however, is not alone in his glory on the river. There we see majestic oaks draped most gracefully in long sweeping moss, the mourning cypress waves in the soft summer air and the tall Magnolia Grandiflora with its white Queenly blooms wafts their fragrance everywhere.

"But the greatest fun to me was hunting the wild

turkey and the quail in their woodland haunts. There were a dozen in the party, all on horseback, except two girls who were mounted on mules and quite delighted with the novelty. The gentlemen cautiously proceeded through dense woods in search of the turkey, while we were acting sentinels on the movements of the quail. A signal was to be given when a drove of birds came in sight. They did not have to wait long. The echo of the little whistle was caught on the breeze. All were wild with excitement and highly elated at the prospect of securing the whole drove and enjoying a partridge dinner—but alas! It is said a woman can never hold her tongue at the right moment, so we thoughtless creatures chatted and giggled in spite of all the warnings of our gallant escorts—and so we lost our game! Instead of meekly being driven into the nets the frightened birds suddenly left us and all of our glorious visions of quail on toast for that day were like a mirage of the desert. The gentlemen, however, were too chivalrous to blame us very severely, but secretly decided among themselves never to go quail hunting in partnership with our sex again, wisely quoting 'speech is silver but silence is golden.' Thanks to their superior control of the tongue, we were made happy in a few days by a long net containing thirty engaged quails, half a deer and a wild turkey."

Louisa Rogers, Barnesville, Ga.

From the wild freedom of the Georgia pines to the dreary fastnesses of a Kentucky penitentiary is a great and sudden change, and yet perhaps it will be good for us to reflect a little in view of our coming festival, on our blessings and comforts, and to realize how many there are in this broad land to whom Thanksgiving day is almost the only taste they have of enjoyment of any kind.

"Thanksgiving day, the day that is looked forward to with so much pleasure and happiness by the many thousands of inhabitants of our dear land, brings no less joy to those confined in our State penitentiaries. They are thankful that it is as well with them as it is, which many of us are not. It has been our pleasure to witness expressions of gladness and thankfulness light up the faces of men who had transgressed the law and were paying the penalty, that are seldom seen on the outside.

"On ordinary days when visitors wish to go through the penitentiary they have to pay twenty-



KENTUCKY BRANCH PENITENTIARY.

five cents admission, which from the great numbers who visit the prison makes quite a snug sum annually. This fund is set apart to provide extras for the inmates of the prison on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Fourth of July.

"Some weeks before the day set for Thanksgiving the officer having such matters in charge purchases a large number of turkeys and geese, and these are well fed to get them in prime condition for the day of feasting and rejoicing, while great quantities of cakes, apples, lemons, pies, and other things, are purchased and prepared for the day of days to those men.

"The day before Thanksgiving the turkeys and geese are dressed, and long before daybreak on Thanksgiving day experienced cooks are at work preparing them for dinner. The great ovens and ranges are kept busy until near the noon hour, when the work is completed. When the 'all-right' bell rings at 6:30 a. m. on this day, the men do not march to the work shops as usual but are given the liberty of the yard and are permitted to engage in conversation or games, to read, write, or attend services in the chapel conducted by earnest Christian men and women who visit the prison in large numbers on such days. Soon the bell that they are so eagerly listening for calls them into line and the march into the dining room for Thanksgiving dinner begins. In a few moments all are seated in their accustomed places, the kind-hearted warden and chaplain each speak a few well chosen words, and the bell taps for, to them, the greatest of all dinners to commence. Neat and swift waiters fit here and there attending to the wants of all, and doubtless the dinner is more thoroughly enjoyed and thankfully received than in many homes where happiness and thankfulness should reign supreme.

"If you want to enjoy one Thanksgiving spend it among your fallen fellowmen and also try to make some poor unfortunate realize that even in this day and time it can be said of some, 'I was in prison and ye visited me.'"

J. W. COLE, Benton, Ky.

Here is a very pleasant letter from an Oregon cousin.

"I have been reading the letters of others in *COMFORT* and think I will write you a few lines about my home.

"We live on a ranch on the east side of Columbia River, and are surrounded by mountains. Our ranch contains one hundred and sixty-seven acres of timber land and five or six acres of farming land. The O. R. and N. railway runs just in front of the house. There is a mountain near by called Shell Rock, around which this railway runs. This mountain is well named Shell Rock for pieces of it are constantly breaking off and falling into the Columbia River or on the railway track. The managers of the railway are obliged to keep a watchman on duty day and night at this point to keep the track clear of rocks.

"There are also many creeks or brooks that run down from the mountains, which are noted for their trout which measure from five to nine and ten inches in length. People are not allowed to catch trout less than five inches long this year, which will be rather hard on the fishermen who make a living by catching brook trout."

LAURA M. STOKES, Cascade Locks, Ore.

One of the most curious as well as instructive buildings of modern times is that of the 'Halls of the Ancients,' so called, in Washington, D. C. Its originator and architect, whose name appears in the following letter, was also the designer and builder of the Pompeian house at Saratoga Springs, which was so graphically described in this department a year or two ago by Robert Seaver.

"The fact that each state of our Union has its own capital should not cause us to forget that we have a National capital as well. The city of Washington may well command our admiration and love; it should be our Mecca, the spot which every citizen should aim to visit and know. That such educational institutions as are of value to all should find their home in this, our City Beautiful, seems most appropriate. The construction of the National Gallery, the greatest educational conception ever presented to the world, will be a realization of the ideal museum, illustrating the evolution of civilization so that all can study and understand.

"Mr. Franklin W. Smith is the promotor of this broad and nationalizing idea. To teach the people the need of it, he has constructed on New York Avenue, the building which he calls 'The Halls of the Ancients.' One large room in this building is devoted exclusively to models and plans of the proposed structure. The remainder is arranged to furnish, in a most fascinating manner, illustrations of the four great civilizations on whose ashes our own has been built.

"A reconstruction of the Columns of Karnak, those wonderful supporting shafts, the highest ever raised by man, guards the entrance to the building

and leads into the Hall of Columns. Here are seen the twelve, glorious in the Oriental coloring and decorations, with their capitals in Lotus Bud and Palm, while graphic tales of life and death and conquest may be read in the hieroglyphics that are traced on wall and column. Roman civilization is illustrated in the House of Vettius, covering with its different rooms, ten thousand square feet. The Throne Room, an Assyrian apartment, appears in its heavenly splendor of blue and gold, Assyria's chosen colors. A model of King Sennacherib is seated on the Throne of Xerxes while captives of different races support the chair. The Saracenic



THRONE ROOM, HALLS OF THE ANCIENTS.

Hall, with its gallery covered with casts of treasures from the Alhambra, is wonderfully beautiful.

"As we pass from room to room the past seems linked to the present. We see before us the architecture, the coloring, the illustration of the arts and religion, even the daily life of the ancient peoples. It is something more than a museum of mummies and relics, it is a 'house full of ideas' not of 'dead men's bones.'"

ELLA S. COOPER,

Bridgeport, Conn.

Since the Cuban War anything pertaining to the West Indies possesses a peculiar interest to our people, so I am sure the following letter describing the Lake of Fire at Nassau will please my readers.

"Among the many attractions of Nassau in the Bahamas, is a small lake called the 'Lake of Fire' which is about one thousand feet long and from two to three hundred feet broad. It was originally constructed to store green turtles in, but now is one of the great attractions for visitors. In the daytime it appears just the same as any well behaved sheet of water, but it is at night that the 'Imp of Darkness' or some other imp gets in his fireworks. The minute the water is agitated it seems like a sheet of fire. This is due to the phosphorescence of the water, though why there should be so much phosphorescence in this one particular spot has never been satisfactorily explained. The lake is cut out of solid rock and is only a few hundred feet from the ocean, with which it is connected by a small canal, and when the gate in the canal is left open the water in the lake rises and falls with the tide. Though no underground connection with the lake has yet been found, no matter how often its water is changed, the phosphorescence remains the same. To step out of the dense darkness of a tropical night and gaze on this mysterious lake gives one a very weird and gruesome sensation."

MARION JOHNSON,

Cornwall, Conn.

Now we have a bit of description of North Carolina scenery written for us by a new cousin, whom we are glad to welcome among us.

"Yadkin College is situated in the horseshoe bend of the Yadkin river, in Davidson county, North Carolina. It is built on a very high hill, and has an observatory six stories high. From this observatory can be seen one of the grandest pieces of natural scenery it has ever been my privilege to



LAKE AND MOUNTAIN SCENERY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

behold. Just over north the grand old Pilot Mountain seems to be standing sentinel over a continuous range of mountains, from west to east as far as the eye can see; and the majestic river, like a silver belt, flashing and sparkling in the sunlight, winds its tortuous way from north to south. In plain view one can watch the different ferryboats as they ply their way to and fro across the mighty river. From every hilltop rise the palatial homes of the wealthy, and low down in the valley the hovels of the poor seem to be shrinking out of sight. As the sun reaches the meridian one hears the shrill whistle of the engines, and from three tobacco factories come pouring forth their employees, men, women and little children—on their way to their humble homes for the noon meal. Anon we hear the clang of the college bell, and the delighted children, released from temporary confinement, rush out of the college with shouts and laughter. Then come tripping girls, the dignified divinity student, and the staid professors, all wending their several ways to their homes for refreshment and rest. As one looks down from this lofty perch one can but think of the different lots in the world; but it is comforting to know that no matter what position we occupy there is 'One who heeds, who holds us all in His large love and boundless thought.'"

Mrs. A. A. WATKINS,

Manson, N. C.

Now we have a short sketch of the beautiful city of Peoria, Illinois.

"Not more than a century ago, the now large and thrifty city of Peoria, with thousands of inhabitants, was a lake, where Indians used to fish and paddle their canoes, this being their favorite spot for hunting and fishing. Now nothing remains to be seen of the lake but houses, houses, everywhere: old settlers can tell you of how their grandparents made peace with the Indians and built their log cabins on the lake shores. The lake gradually dried or ran out, as it was a branch of the Illinois river. At the upper side of the city the river is wide and is still called lake. High bluffs surround the entire city, forming a valley and a protection to people from storms. The scenery on the outskirts of the town is magnificent. The city has many industries giving employment to thousands of men, women, boys and girls. It is especially noted for the distilling of alcohol and whiskey and storing of grain. Many beautiful public buildings are to be seen, and it ranks next to Chicago in every respect.

CHAS. HONAG, Peoria, Ills.

Here are a few words from a favorite cousin of ours.

"Hunting and fishing are the favorite sports among the residents along the Mississippi coast, and no place is more suited for this purpose than Chef Menteur, or the 'Chef' as it is familiarly called.

"The 'Chef' derives its name from the beautiful bayou of the same name which connects Lake

Borgue with Lake Pontchartrain, and here fish abound at almost all seasons of the year, and as a natural result many fishing and hunting clubs have homes on the banks of this little stream, and any day zealous sportsmen may be seen in pirogues trying their luck at the fish.

"Chef Menteur is about twenty miles beyond New Orleans, and is on the Louisville and Nashville Road. Men from the city come out to the Chef on the morning trains, spend the day hunting snipe and duck or fishing, and return to the city that evening in season for dinner, and very seldom empty-handed.

"The club houses are well kept and their tables supplied with every delicacy, their nearness to New Orleans making it an easy matter to procure everything desired.

LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

Many thanks to Salona L. Merritt for her account of the Battle of Big Hole, which I cannot use because it is compiled. We do not use historical articles here.

The following letter is very good and interesting, and is deserving of a prize, but was crowded out of my prize list.

"Now come with me and visit the oil town of Sistersville. Five years ago it was only a little steamboat landing, but now has a population of six thousand, has city water works, free mail delivery and natural gas for fuel and light. We get the gas for \$13 1-2 per thousand feet, and an ordinary family will burn about two thousand feet per month in summer and from ten to fifteen thousand feet per stove per month in winter. The oil wells and houses are all mixed up together and the oil company has the right of way in all things. Our homes are on leased ground, for which we pay from twenty to forty dollars a year lease rent, according to location. We cannot buy a lot as the natives will not sell for love or money, and all ground is leased for oil purposes and then re-leased to people to build on, and if an oil company wants to run a line of oil through your house you can either move it or they can. They will come into town and bring forty quarts of nitroglycerine and lower it in the wells in tin tubes holding any amount they desire, and then drop a piece of iron down and then run; and by the time they are a few rods away the iron has reached the glycerine and a shower of rocks, oil and smoke shoots up over the top of the derrick, which is about seventy-five feet high; but as the wells are about two thousand feet deep in this vicinity there is no danger after the glycerine is in the well. An oil well costs all the way from one to two, three or four thousand dollars, according to the depth and the luck they have in drilling it; and some of them flow as much as one thousand barrels a day. However, such wells are few and are classed as gushers. A fifty barrel well is counted a good producer, and is likely to hold out longer than one of the big wells. The Standard Oil Company has most of the oil in this field, but there are many private companies, and the owners of the ground get a royalty—one-eighth or one-sixteenth of the oil.

Mrs. F. K. SHUMATE, Sistersville, W. Va.

And now our time is up, so good-by until October.

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September means the end of vacations to thousands of people. Schools, colleges, factories and shops call with the voice of the town. It also means the commencement of vacation to the vast army who have been catering to the needs of "summer boarders."

"Parting summer's lingering bloom" has almost claimed September for her own. The early part of September is emphatically a summer month. The habit of extending vacation into this month grows from year to year in the class that can afford to ignore the imperative call of business.

Sarah Bernhardt's rendering of Hamlet has awakened a desire to play "the melancholy Dane" on the part of Julia Arthur. Americans are promised the innovation of seeing a woman in the title part of the great tragedy. All this awakens discussions as to Hamlet's personal appearance. The mental pictures of Hamlet as given by prominent people run the gamut from "fair and fat" to "dark, small and subtle." It offers an opportunity for newspapers in search of a discussion to ask their readers: "How did Hamlet look?"

The patriotic feelings roused to expression by the war have found vent in a perfect epidemic of sword giving. The sword has ceased to be a weapon of defence but it is still symbolic and as we cannot present rapid firing guns or powder horns the sword answers every demand of sentiment and admiration. The presentation of a sword to the captain of the cruiser Baltimore on the twelfth of September is an occasion of more than ordinary interest to the American people. The fight at North Point during the war of 1812, occurred upon that date. It was during the night of that day that Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner." America has a number of national songs but among them all the Star Spangled Banner is chief favorite. Since the time of its writing the phrase "home of the free" has become literally true. The selection of this historic date for the historic expression of the feelings of Baltimore towards the captain of the cruiser bearing the city's name is peculiarly appropriate.

What a restfulness and charm some people possess through their evident sincerity. "Real people" seem to be growing fewer and fewer in this age of superficialities. One would fancy that even the appearance of sincerity was under fashionable ban and that the modern aim was to present a surface manner, a society veneer so that there would be no mistaking it for anything genuine. "A painted ship upon a painted ocean" can awaken more genuine emotion in us than the crowd of shadows that flit by as "people." To have a real place in the world one must be real. We sometimes feel that those we meet must have a hearty disapprobation of themselves as known to themselves because their efforts to hide the "Ego" are so patent. We may not always approve or even like the personality revealed by a sincere person, but we feel it and we must at least respect the genuineness of it. The chief charm of manner is simplicity and sincerity. When one gets outside these two "s's" manner ceases and "manners" begin. "Manner" is cultured but "manners" are essentially vulgar. The note of absolute sincerity will carry conviction and make an impression in every instance—not by trying but by an absence of effort.

We have had a long standing joke as to the

total inability of our English cousins to see a "joke." We cannot blame them for their density when we read of the high handed action of our honored Ambassador, Mr. Choate. Mr. Choate has long held an enviable position as a prince of jest makers. We felt that his keen, incisive wit would stir even the sluggish British intellect. It has. More, it has seemed worthy of careful and studied attention and an enterprising maker of books after following the trail of Mr. Choate's wit with stenographer, scissors, paste and patience, prepared the Choate Jest Book. Here was the text book of wit and humor, a careful perusal of which would train the beef eaters to a measure of comprehension of American fun. But alas, 'twas not to be. Mr. Choate bought up the entire edition—and suppressed it. Some optimists hoped that he had purchased the edition meaning to present copies where his experience had taught him they would do the most good. Some venture to hint that a "jest book" and the high and mighty position of an ambassador cannot exist at one and the same time in the same nation. However it may chance, Mr. Choate has purchased the privilege of being his own jest book unless some starved scribbler sees the business opportunity presented by the possibility of selling an entire edition at sight and pirates some more Choate jokes to print. The British public must still catch the jokes "on the fly" or not at all.

The Church Army under the lead of Col. Hadley is making a great effort to rival the attractions of the cup that inebriates by the cup that cheers. Tea saloons with tea served over a bar are being established in many of the large cities. Col. Hadley argues that people drink beer and the like because these are easily secured. The tea saloons furnish both hot and iced tea. Arrangements are also made to sell the liquids in quantities. People come to these saloons with pitchers and pails and the sight of these receptacles on city streets is no longer equivalent to a conviction of "rushing the growler" as the local vernacular terms this method of ministrating to thirst. The movement has excited much interest and a corresponding amount of discussion. Some physicians express the belief that the "tea habit" may be as harmful physically as the habit of indulging in alcoholic beverages. Tea used in such excessive quantities that the tannin affects the system is certainly not a harmless substitute for liquor, but such instances of its use are rare enough to make a serious discussion of this result unprofitable. To substitute one vice for another is not radical reformation but the old adage, "of two evils choose the least" is practical advice at any rate. The excessive nervous strain that is a modern characteristic shows itself in a natural habit of drinking—ice water, soda water—"soft drinks" and those not "soft." The ice water habit may be as directly harmful in a physical way as the habit of strong drink. Physicians are not agreed in regard to the physical effect of stimulants and narcotics but there can be no ground of hesitation between the moral effect of tea drinking or the drinking of spirituous liquors. If the "tea saloon" furnishes the elements of good fellowship and social intercourse and supplants a bad habit with at least a better one the results will justify the efforts.

The county fair is here. How brightly the announcement gleams through the long hot vista of haying and early harvesting. Through all the varied amusements of his later years the country bred boy never forgets the wild joy of "fair time." The long procession of wagons that filled every county road, the blare of the brass band, the excitement of the booths with their mysteries of popcorn and pink lemonade, the appetizing odor of boiled onions and cabbage from some hall where an enterprising church society are serving dinner to those reckless enough to buy a dinner instead of bringing one to be eaten picnic fashion—all this and more made up the fascinating whole of the "Fair." Then after one day's wild dissipation the satisfying sense of two more days yet remained. What after taste of pomps and vanities can equal that "fun."

There has been a tendency to lament the fact that the county fairs were no longer an exhibit of agricultural products but rather a horse racing, vaudeville performance masquerading under the name of agricultural fair. This is a wrong idea and proceeds largely from the class of people who can gratify their pleasure loving taste anytime but who consider live stock and mammoth pumpkins as a new form of entertainment and resent the mixture of their bucolic pleasure with the more familiar form of amusement. The average farmer may and does take an honest pride in exhibiting the products of his farm, but after months of observation of their staples he appreciates the excitement of a balloon ascension or juggling feat or the antics of a contortionist. The people who insist that a fair must be purely agricultural first, last and all the time, forget the old adage of "all work and no play." It is the contact with other people and the change from the daily routine that constitute the chief benefit of the "county fair."

During the month of September a convention of the most practical possibility will assemble in Huntsville, Alabama. This convention will give a careful and intelligent consideration to the problem of the industrial conditions of the South. Representative men from all portions of the South will be present. The present condition of the resources and industries of the South will be carefully considered and suggestions looking to the future development of this section will be given by practical business men. In the list of papers and discussions are the topics: cotton and cotton factories, iron, wool, timber, phosphates, railroads, dairying, legislation affecting capital and corporations, poultry stock, silk culture, banking, the press, minerals and pottery, the race problem, education, law diversification of industry and immigration. The South is still as it was in Colonial days, an agricultural section. The use of steam as a motive power has removed the bar to the manufacture of products where the raw material is found or produced and the future of the South lies in its development of the manufacture of its own products. This convention means much to the business interest of the nation. The new South is hardly a generation old. Its vast natural resources are as yet but partly developed. It is taking up the problem of its commercial future in a scientific spirit that bids fair to develop the

section in a phenomenal manner. The Colonial history of the South is full of the efforts of the Southern colonists to find some staple agricultural product suited to the climatic conditions. The mention of a paper upon silk culture brings to mind the early effort of Virginia in this line. The South is the oldest section of our country and it is to-day the least developed section. Its resources are but partially comprehended even by its own citizens and the influence of the September convention cannot fail to produce speedy and far reaching results.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

- | No. | PIANO OR ORGAN. | No. | VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN. |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 185 | American Liberty March | 27 | Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten. |
| 186 | Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step | 28 | Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana. Mascagni |
| 187 | Auld Lang Syne. Variations | 29 | Beacon Light of Hope |
| 188 | Austrian Song. Op. 29. 1 | 30 | Beautiful Face of Jennie. The |
| 189 | Buttle of Waterloo. Descriptive | 31 | Beautiful Moonlight. Duet |
| 190 | Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands | 32 | Ben Bolt, of "Tribby" fame |
| 191 | Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes | 33 | Blue Eyes |
| 192 | Bells of Cornville. Potpourri | 34 | By Normand's Blue Hills |
| 193 | Black Hawk Waltz | 35 | Can You Sweetheart, Keep a Secret? Estabrooke |
| 194 | Bluebird Echo Polka | 36 | Changeless |
| 195 | Boston Commandery March | 37 | Childhood's Happy Hours |
| 196 | Bridal March from Lohengrin | 38 | Christmas Carol |
| 197 | Bryan and Sewall March | 39 | Come on, come on the Soft Twilight Falls |
| 198 | Cadenza and Solos in All Keys | 40 | Come on, come on the Soft Twilight Falls |
| 199 | Catherine Waltzes | 41 | Cow Bells. The Boyhood's Recollection |
| 200 | Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step | 42 | Darling Nellie Gray |
| 201 | Cleveland's March | 43 | Dear Heart, We're Growing Old |
| 202 | Coming from the Races Galop | 44 | Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp. |
| 203 | Corn Flower Waltzes | 45 | Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp. |
| 204 | Crack Four March | 46 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 205 | Crystal Dew Waltz | 47 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 206 | Dewey's Grand Triumphal March | 48 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 207 | Electric Light Waltzes | 49 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 208 | Estelle. Air de Ballet. Very Fine | 50 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 209 | Ethel Polka | 51 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 210 | Evergreen Waltz | 52 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 211 | Fifth Nocturne | 53 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 212 | Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz | 54 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 213 | Fresh Life | 55 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 214 | Frolic of the Frogs | 56 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 215 | Full of Ginger. March Galop | 57 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 216 | Golden Rain. Nocturne | 58 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 217 | Grand Commandery March—Two Step | 59 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 218 | Greeting of Spring. Op. 21 | 60 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 219 | Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still | 61 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 220 | Hobson of the Merrimack Waltzes | 62 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 221 | Home, Sweet Home. Transcription | 63 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 222 | Impassioned Dream Waltzes | 64 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 223 | Jenny Lind polka. Four hands | 65 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 224 | Last Hope. Meditation | 66 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 225 | Leap Year Schottische | 67 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 226 | Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" Galop | 68 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 227 | London March—Two Step | 69 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 228 | Madame's Prayer. The | 70 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 229 | Murch Winds Galop | 71 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 230 | May Breezes. Four hands | 72 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 231 | McKinley and Hobart March | 73 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 232 | Memorial Day March | 74 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 233 | Monks' Prayer | 75 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 234 | Morning Dew. Op. 18 | 76 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 235 | Morning Star Waltz | 77 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 236 | Music Box. The. Caprice | 78 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 237 | My Love Polka | 79 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 238 | My Old Kentucky Home. Variations | 80 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 239 | National Anthems of Eight Great Nations | 81 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 240 | Nightingale's Trill, Op. 81 | 82 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 241 | Old Folks at Home. Transcription | 83 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 242 | Old Folks at Home. The. Variations | 84 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 243 | On the Wave Waltz | 85 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 244 | Oregon. Queen of the Sea. Two-step | 86 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 245 | Orvetta Waltz | 87 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 246 | Our Little Agnes. Waltz | 88 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 247 | Over the Waves Waltz | 89 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 248 | Piedmont Waltz | 90 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 249 | Piedmont Waltz | 91 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
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| 299 | Piedmont Waltz | 141 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |
| 300 | Piedmont Waltz | 142 | Ever Sweet is Thy Memory |

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Andante con tenerezza. *mf*

Do you think I could ev - er for - get you, dear, with those ten - der eyes of brown? . Do you

think I could ev - er for - get you, dear, when I love you so, my own! . Do the stars that shine by night, love, for - get their

poco a poco. *rall - en - tan - do. p*

beat - en way? . Ah, no! and less do I, . . . love, for - get you, For - get you, for - get you day by day.

a tempo. *m*

You will live with - in this heart, my dear, when the years have rolled a - way. I will won - der where you

colla voce.

are, my sweet, In my lone - li - ness some day, . . . When the stars that shine by night, . . . love, for - get to

accel. *ffz* *rall - en - tan - do.*

go their way, . . . Till then be - lieve me true, dear, I love you! I love you! I love you night and day. .

M. G.

*Also published for contralto.

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Some Good Advice to Singers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

It is an old saying that nothing succeeds like success and to obtain the most successful results in any direction it is always well to take the advice of those who have most brilliantly won out the battle in their own lines. A short time ago COMFORT published in its musical department an entertaining account

of that great singer Patti, and recently that great diva has charmingly given the public some account of her own work.

It is with pleasure that COMFORT is able to condense a few of these ideas, as they certainly will be an assistance to every singer, amateur or professional, who hopes to be a leader in this art. The rules she laid down for herself were wise and at the same time not difficult to follow if the singer were willing to exercise a little self denial. The very first point was to keep the vocal powers full with extreme care and to that end Mme. Patti never exposed herself.

Her care undoubtedly led to great exaggera-

tion in newspapers which frequently stated in cynical terms her fear of catching cold. One imaginative writer for the press once related how all her clothing was marked with cabalistic signs; and that she carried a thermometer by which she reckoned addition or subtraction of a certain number of ounces of clothing as the mercury rose or fell in the tube. Someway or other her care seemed very ludicrous or eccentric to newspaper writers, and in one case it was told elaborately in detail of her slow progression from one room to another when the degree of heat varied, in order that the chill might not shock her.

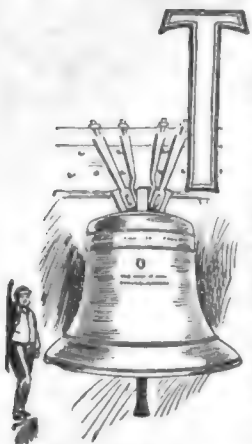
As a matter of fact her rules were to harden

up the body and build up the constitution; not to occupy overheated rooms at any time; to live outdoors at least two hours each day and to breathe plenty of good fresh air. She did not believe in muffling up the throat. On the contrary she did not believe in exposing one's self to too much damp air. These are all good rules and should be followed by singers.

The song published in this number of COMFORT is a very beautiful one which will be generally admired. Under the music offer on another page COMFORT is sending thousands of sheets of music at about ten per cent. of the cost at the low sales in music stores. Read it and act at once.

A Notable Clock and Its Bells.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



one thing; it is another to climb the great tower and peer into the face of the giant measurer of Chronos.

"Big Ben's" tower is three hundred feet high and with its belfry spire twenty feet more, to ascend which is no mean undertaking for the lightest of hearts. Then one must be stout of limb and have good wind chests or the clock—to say nothing of the bells—will not be reached. Fortunately I am thus blessed, so, having submitted to much red-tapeism, I secured the necessary orders from the First Commissioner of Works. Accompanied by the janitor with lamps and keys we passed through a door at the foot of this giant tower. I looked up. It was an immense height of an apparently endless winding staircase. Far, far off could just be distinguished a dim light forcing its way in from the crannies. This was the top, leading to the clock room.

The ascent began—with the mournful prospect of having to mount six hundred steps and more, ere I could set hands or eyes upon the famous Westminster clock, or the famous specimen of the bell-founder's art which has been sounding the time for all London ever since 1858. It was slow work and right welcome were the occasional stoppages of my companion to turn on the gas jets which light up this wondrous staircase.

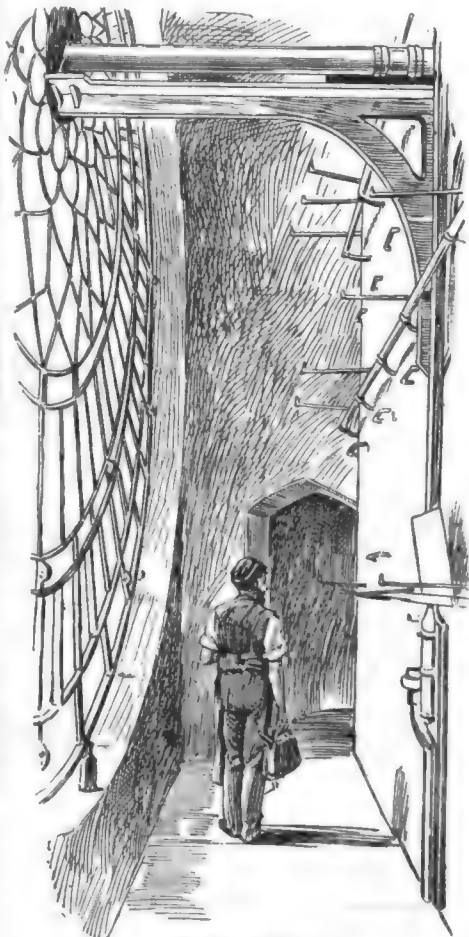
We climbed on—I getting wearier at every step until the welcome intimation that we were on the level of the clock room ended a journey which no asthmatical "party" ought to attempt. Through a small door and we were face to face with the notable Westminster clock—a masterpiece of horological ingenuity. It is somewhat strange that an eminent lawyer should have designed this famous clock, yet so it stands. Sir Edmund Beckett Denison, now Lord Grimthorpe is the highest authority upon clocks and bells.

The works of the Westminster clock are in a room twenty-eight feet by eighteen feet, lighted by a gas jet or two, but the actual frame of the clock which encloses the works is fifteen and one-half feet long by four feet seven inches wide. The pendulum weighs seven hundred pounds, four hundred and forty-eight of which are taken up by the "bob." It can be accelerated one second a day by putting on an ounce weight. At the ends of the works are the winders. The winding up of the going part takes ten minutes, while the winding up of the striking parts—the quarter part and the hour part—takes five hours each; and this has to be done twice a week. Two men perform this winding. From this room the time is communicated to the dials which keep a watchful eye on London's four sides. Upon close inspection the dials are immense—a size which can be best

visible jerk. The framework of each face of this huge timepiece weighs four tons, exclusive of the glass. This frame is of galvanized iron and the glass with which it is filled is a very expensive opal.

The lighting of the clock is effected by jets of gas on the whitened walls five feet behind the dials. An important consideration in timepieces, great and small, is their time-keeping qualities. In this respect Westminster clock cannot be beaten. One second for eighty-three days is all the error this clock makes, which can be said of no other clock in the world. This timekeeper reports itself to Greenwich Observatory daily by electric telegraph, giving two signals a day at an hour before and after noon for greater accuracy. From this fact has arisen a stupid yet popular misconception concerning it. Originally some enemy to the clock or of its designer, set about the report that it was "controlled," that is kept to time, by electrical connection with Greenwich. No such thing. It reports its own performance to the Observatory. A signal is sent from Greenwich at some hour daily for the information of the winding men, but they never touch the pendulum unless the error is two seconds, which happens very seldom.

Much more I might have learned concerning this famous timepiece, but as it was nearing twelve o'clock and I was anxious to be in the belfry when the bells gave off the hour, a higher stage on the journey had to be essayed. The apartment resembles a huge iron cage



BEHIND A DIAL.

with an open dome (leading to the lantern of the tower) and trellis-work iron flooring. The place abounds in iron girders and rafters after the fashion of a quay or pier landing stage. In the center is "Big Ben," 6 feet 6 inches in height, 9 feet in diameter, 27 feet in circumference and weighing 13 tons 11 cwt. Truly a colossal bell and the biggest one in Britain until the Men-Taylor cast "Great Paul," the monster bourdon bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, weighing 16 tons 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. Around "Big Ben" are suspended its solemn satellites, varying from six to four feet in diameter, large bells enough yet insignificant in the company of the great bell, which ought to sound the note E but doesn't because it is cracked.

Where is "Big Ben" cracked? I was just about making this examination for myself when there came a strain and a creaking as if the tower, or its upper part at least, were about to topple over. I clutched at my watch. It was just twelve o'clock and ere I had realized this the first note of the quarter sounded. Instantly the place was an almost unendurable pandemonium. The reverberations from the first quarter's chime had barely disengaged themselves ere the second quarter intensified matters. "Clang—clang" roared in the third series, creating a perfect sea of sound, and when the "ding-dong-dong-ding" of the final greater bells pealed in all this mixture of sound seemed lashed into fury. Escape it could not in so short a time, and the air around appeared a whirling maze of strong sound currents, hard for the head to endure.

This while I climbed the staging so as to actually feel the bell's throbbings under such terrific blows as would ensue from a hammer weighing four hundredweight. It trembled violently under its punishment. Little wonder, thought I, that it cracked when struck with a clapper double this weight, although the bell should have borne with an eight hundred weight clapper. Had it done so the sound would have been much louder than it now is.

At the final stroke of twelve o'clock I held the rim of "Big Ben" until its pulsations ceased; but it was some time afterwards ere the sound entirely disappeared in the air.

Dismounting I espied on the floor hard by the iron culprit which did the injury to "Big Ben" and it certainly looks capable of hurling destruction at anything coming in its way. It is only fair to say, however, that the non-amalgamation of the tin with the copper in the casting and not the weight of the clapper was the cause of "Big Ben's" cracking—a calamity which for many years has given London the questionable privilege of listening hourly to a bell which is deplorably out of tune. This, just over the heads of those who legislate for Great Britain and its dependencies, is a sorry commentary upon the musical perceptions of England's Senators! That it was in casting that the defect in "Big Ben" arose is clearly established by the section of metal which has been cut from the rim of the bell.

We now made for the terrace outside the bel-

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No money required. We send the Blaine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Bevelled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to keep Accurate Time, and with Proper Care should last ten years.

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try from which a magnificent view of London's four sides is obtained. The heights on the north side of the great city are discernible while one seems almost able to touch the dome of St. Paul's and such high structures as the Monument. Looking down, human beings appear as so many flies and horses and vehicles look no bigger than mice tied to tiny conveyances.

Only twice in its history has the clock ceased in its time recording functions. On the first occasion a heavy fall of snow clogged the hands preventing their traveling. The next time it was stopped purposely. This was on the 15th of September, 1880, when the reason of the cessation was to allow workmen to erect a scaffold in the clock room for the purpose of repairing and decorating, and while that was going on the opportunity was taken to clean the works of the clock.

The expenditure upon this great clock and bells is a matter which is often debated. Well, the dials and hands together—by a piece of blundering—cost £5,334, or more than the whole outlay for the works and the striking parts in the bell chamber above; so that £10,000 might be set down as a round figure for its original value.

You can easily make three dollars a day working for us. Do not miss this chance of making good money. See the back page of this paper.

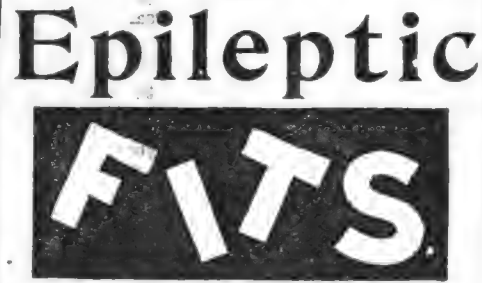
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CLOCK TOWER AND BEACONSFIELD STATUE.

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FINLAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



KANTELE PLAYER.

In northern Europe, bounded by the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland, by Russia and Lapland, is a country little known to us, but worthy of our attention. Finland is twice the size of New England, it is not a day's journey from Christiania in Sweden or St. Petersburg in Russia, its scenery is delightful and sport is abundant, yet the tourist seems to have overlooked it.

Finland is not Lapland, neither do the people live in tents made of skin, nor travel from place to place with herds of reindeer. Finland is by far the most civilized portion of the great Russian Empire and it rivals in culture many of the better known countries of Europe.

To understand the present condition of Finland one must know something of its history. The ancient Finns probably lived in large village communities, governed by chiefs, each tribe hostile to its neighbor. They were pagans but we know little of their religious or other customs. In 1157 Finland was invaded by the Swedes who united the clans and formed the Finns into a nation. Sweden, however, having a liberal government established the same in the captured country, and in spite of being in subjection to the Swedish monarch Finland has practically governed herself always. The greatest disadvantage of the invasion was that the Finnish language was set aside among the higher classes and all the culture, literature, laws and government business was henceforth in Swedish, and inaccessible to the common people. The church, however, retained the tongue of the people so that it was not altogether lost.

In 1808 Finland was conquered by Russia after a most heroic defence, and to-day it is a part of the great Slavonic Empire though the introduction of Russian officials into the country has made but little change in its customs. The Russian language has not been accepted by any portion of the former inhabitants of the land, and this third language we find spoken only by the representatives of the Tsar. The question of language is a serious one in Finland. Even the signs at the corners of the streets are printed in three languages, and in the parliament an interpreter is constantly needed to interpret speeches of the peasants to the gentry and again to the Russian officials.

Suomi is the name the Finns give to their country. Some one has said that Finland is like a sponge with the holes representing the lakes, and the simile is a good one. A person may travel almost from end to end of the country by water, using the rivers and chains of lakes as his highway. Every wealthy Finn owns his own lake where he and his family settle for the summer on the charming well wooded islands.

The Finns are a very hospitable people, always glad to welcome strangers and show them the beauties of their land, so little of which is known to the outside world. Their family life is very delightful, family gatherings being a matter of daily occurrence.

A Finn never hurries, he takes life easily and if the trains are not on time it troubles no one, or if the boat starts at midnight when it is billed to start at noon it is no cause of worry to the passengers.



HARD SCRATCHING.

The cities are not unlike those of any country of northern Europe. The houses are securely built with windows that are seldom open for in winter the cold is intense and in summer the people of the better class leave the towns deserted. Helsinki, the capital, is a town of 70,000 inhabitants. Here is the University and a very good one it is. Women, as well as men, are admitted and it is the centre of society, in the capital, in winter. Women hold a most enviable position in this northern land, that is women of the better classes. They are admitted to almost every occupation and are much respected whatever their occupation. On the other hand the peasant women do much hard manual labor which we should think fit only for men to perform. Every one rides the bicycle in Finland and though the roads are rough the easy going Finn bumps along and thoroughly enjoys it. Fortunately there are almost no hills for Finland is a flat country. Boating, too, is very popular in the summer, and the canoe, not unlike our Indian canoe, may be seen threading its way among the islands of the lakes, through the long summer days, or drifting idly about in the glorious twilight, which in that northern clime lasts far into the night, fading into the dawn. The 24th of June is the great fête of the year. It is Johannula or Midsummer Day, when the sun goes round without setting and shines brightly even at midnight. Then are burned the Kokko fires. This is in accordance with an ancient pagan custom of unknown origin. Great piles of tar barrels, trees, and anything else combustible are placed on a raft, on a hill top, or at the water's edge and ignited. Every one, old and young, dance about as the fire bursts into flames, singing their national airs, playing games and making merry. If the fire does not smoulder until morning it is a bad omen for the coming year.

Finland is thoroughly musical. Every Finn sings a part and in any place and at any time, waiting for a train to start, or on the arrival of a steamer the crowd may break into song, and sing well. A grand musical festival is held annually, each year in a different town. There is much competition between the choirs which are sent from all parts of the country. The old national airs are the favorites and are often weird and strange in their movement. Some of them date back to the times before history began in Finland and are sung by the Runo Singers, accompanied by the native instrument called the Kantele. By means of these ancient songs much of the tradition of early Finland is preserved. The Runo Singers are dreamy men and women much beloved by the people for they are the poets of the land, and the historians. And think not for a moment that Finland lacks in men of letters. Yes, and it boasts, too, of several women who have made their mark in literature. Probably the best known Finnish work is the epic poem, Kalevala. This is a collection of the traditions and ancient customs of Finland which the peasants, far removed from civilization, chanted, sang, or told of their country and its heroes. These were passed on from generation to generation and were at last collected and written down. The poem is full of myth and poetical feeling and is, to the Finn, his connecting link between the past and the present.

Finland's wealth is in its forests. Everywhere are the magnificent pines towering high toward the brilliant sky, or the beautiful silvery birches swaying their bright green foliage in graceful curves. Even the mats on the floor are made of the branches with the green leaves on them. The pine trees are a source of immense wealth on account of the tar which they yield, and which forms the principal article of the export trade of Finland.

Everywhere the scenery is beautiful, the fishing is unrivalled, and summer sports of all kinds may be enjoyed beneath a sky of such brilliancy as is found nowhere save in northern lands in the summer. Then comes the long, cold, dark winter. For many days the sun is low on the horizon or appears not at all. But there is compensation for this. The hard, black ice invites hundreds of skaters; in the woods the hunter on skis tracks the deer or the bear, while the sledges are all busy drawing the loads which cannot be hauled over the rough roads in summer. It is a time for merry-making and for visiting, and parties even cross the Baltic to Sweden on the ice.

Railroads connect all the important towns of Finland, steamers cross the largest lakes; telegraph service though expensive is not unknown, and as for the telephone—every one has one, no house being complete without one.

But now when we find Finland far to the front in civilization we ask ourselves, "Whence comes this trouble with Russia?" It is because of its advance that Finland is now suffering from the fear of the yoke. From ancient times she has had her freedom, though ruled by a foreign king. She has had her representative parliament and no law could be passed without its consent, and the Russian Tsars have honored the constitution and rights of the people. Within the present year while the Tsar is talking of disarmament for all nations he proposes to Finland that the Finnish army be incorporated into the Russian army, liable to calls from any part of the empire, from Kamchatka to the Dnieper; and furthermore he proposes to take away the right of parliament to veto, thus giving full power to the Tsar to pass whatever laws he thinks best. It is evident, also, from the inducements held out, that the Tsar intends that Russian shall supplant the Finnish and Swedish languages in Finland. Against all this the people are earnestly protesting but the Tsar is deaf to their remonstrances.

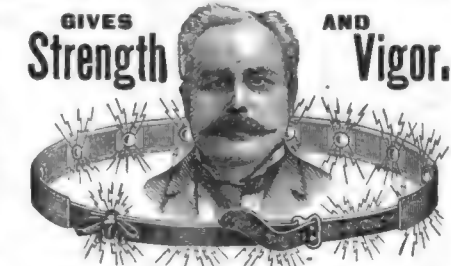
With Russia "Might makes right" and the Russians would like nothing better than a pretext for calling out troops to quell a rebellion in Finland. But the Finns have been wise, have shown good judgment and much courage, and their natural phlegm and caution have turned to their advantage, and it is to be hoped that with unity at home and a general feeling of sympathy among other nations the cause of Finland will not suffer at the hand of the "Prince of Peace" as they have sarcastically named the Tsar.

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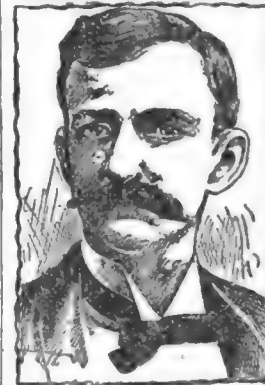
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Weltmerism, the Method of Magnetic Healing, originated by Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., in its wide scope of doing good for suffering humanity, does not only cure diseases of all nature but makes it impossible for disease to exist. This is a fact that has been substantiated by the many thousands of cures made. All physicians, all scientists, in fact all who know the physiology of the human race know that if the organs of circulation, secretion and excretion are in perfect condition, perfect health is attained. Magnetic Healing, now known as Weltmerism, restores, without the aid of medicine, these organs to their natural function and the disease is banished. The patients are not only permanently cured of the then existing disease but are so strengthened physically that their system is such a formidable foe to disease that disease cannot exist. Take, for instance, woman in her monthly trial, if she is in perfect health, the monthly period instead of being a dread and a pain will be a renewal of strength and vigor. This great method cures lost manhood, debilitation in both sex, indigestion, dyspepsia, stomach trouble in fact, any disease known to man or woman, and this without the aid of medicine that so often ruins a constitution, which under the Weltmer method of magnetic healing is made strong. The present generation should be, indeed, thankful for this great method of Magnetic Healing which bids the afflicted not only to hope but positively tells them that their affliction will be cured. From the press and pulp come words of gratitude, voicing the sentiments of thousands who have been cured by the wonderful scientific method, known as absent treatment, which annihilates space and perfects marvelous cures at a distance, making it possible to permanently cure those who cannot go to Nevada, Mo. Thereby giving the benefit of this great blessing to all classes of people. Substantiating all the good things that have been said of Weltmerism are thousands of testimonials from people who have been cured of every imaginable disease through this marvelous curative power, a few of which we publish.



PROF. WELTMER.

Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. Cured by the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than 30 days gained 15 pounds.

Mrs. Lavisa Dudley, Larry, Ill., suffered for thirty years with neuralgia and stomach troubles. Nothing but morphine would relieve her. Permanently cured in a few weeks by the Absent Method of treatment.

Mr. John S. Small, Colfax, Ill., was deaf in his left ear for seven years; could not hear a watch tick when placed against his ear. Was permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer.

Anyone writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of testimonials from men and women who owe their health and happiness to Weltmerism; also much information on this science of healing.

THE WELTMER METHOD TAUGHT TO OTHERS.

The American School of Magnetic Healing is organized under the laws of the State of Missouri. Prof. Weltmer is the president of this institution, and Prof. J. H. Kelly the secretary and treasurer. It is impossible for Prof. Weltmer to attend to the enormous demands made upon him to cure. He therefore wishes others to take up his profession, so that he may call upon them to assist him in his noble work. With this in view the American School of Magnetic Healing was founded. The method perfected and in use by this school is so complete in all its details that the students become as efficient as Prof. Weltmer himself, in this great art to cure, in ten days. This noble profession is taught either by mail or personal instructions. Anyone who desires can learn it, and anyone who learns can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the great number who have been instructed and who are in the active practice of healing by this method. This is beyond doubt the best paying profession of the age, as students who have learned this method through the American School of Magnetic Healing are earning from \$10 to \$50 per day.



PROF. KELLY Sec'y and Treas.

The following letter is one of the many in the possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing:

Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo.:
Dear Sir:—Your mail course in Magnetic Healing was received some months ago. After reading same, I caught your idea and at once proceeded to put it into practice, and found I could accomplish all and even more than I anticipated. I have never failed to get immediate results in all cases treated, and I have made a number of cures in cases that have been given up by the best of our physicians as incurable. I expect to devote my entire time to this work, but should I never use it outside of myself or family, would consider it the best investment I ever made.

J. T. IGLEHART, Meridian, Miss.
By addressing Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo., you will receive full instructions free of charge.

17 JEWEL
adjusted, pat. regulator, stem wind and set
NATIONAL SPECIAL
Ladies' or Gent's size. **WARRANTED**
50 YEARS. Genuine American movement in 14k. Gold plate hunting case, elegantly engraved. Fit for a king. No other watch made. Must be seen to be appreciated. Special Offer for next 60 days, send your full name and address and we will send this watch C.O.D. with privilege of examining. If found satisfactory pay agent \$5.85 and express charges. A guarantee and beautiful chain and charm sent free with every watch. Write at once as this may not appear again.
NAT'L H.W. & IMPORTING CO.,
284 Dearborn St., B 228, Chicago, Ill.

LADIES TO WORK FOR US AT their homes the year round; no canvassing; city or country; particulars by mail.
HILL & CO., 137 West 23d Street, New York.

CHILLS Cured by our Pad or No Charge. Address, Malchiguis Mfg. Co., 2349 Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa.
PROFIT without risk. We will send a complete selling outfit of an entirely new class of toilet articles for ladies on receipt of your promise to return goods or cash in ten days. Personal inspection by your Postmaster or two reputable merchants. ANYONE can make \$5 to \$10 weekly. **PARIAN MANUFACTURING CO., 22 Dearborn Street, New York.**

HIGH GRADE 1899 BICYCLES, WATCHES, CAMERAS, MANDOLINS, GUITARS, FREE
You can quickly earn a premium by selling a few boxes of our high-grade Toilet Soap to your neighbors. No money required in advance. Our plan the best even Boys and Girls do well. Our premiums as good as money will buy. Large illustrated list mailed free. Write today for full particulars. **H. H. DAWSON SOAP CO., 55 Fifth Av., Dept. T3, Chicago**

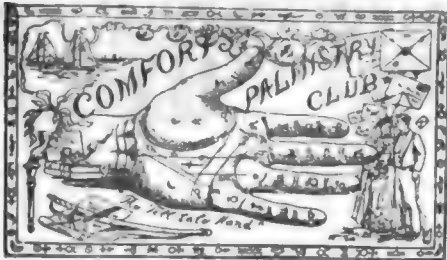
ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.
THE GREAT HOME HEALER.
Pain Vanishes, Blooming Health Returns at the Touch of Science.
Head of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.
Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURE.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries is generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at \$8, \$10 or \$20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia and every species of blood and nerve disease; Cures Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct (not alternating) current, large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation. Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise by Dr. Cullen accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.
A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us \$1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, **COMFORT**, subscription paid one year. (\$1.25 for everything.)
Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

SALESMEN Wanted to travel for old-established firm. Salary, \$50 a mo. & expenses. No previous experience needed. **W. B. HOUSE, 1620 Race St., Phila., Pa.**

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. **MISS MODELE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.** Please mention **COMFORT** when you write.

WE TRUST YOU WITH A BOOK.
A plain, common sense book on health, disease, love, marriage and parentage, by a popular medical authority of N. Y. It has 250 well illustrated pages about what all men and women need to know. We will mail it on approval for 5 cents postage to any responsible person who will either mail back the book or 20 cents. Or, 30 cents with order gets it.
M. HILL PUB. CO., 129 E. 24th St., New York.

Gold Shell Rings FREE.
We have a large lot of fine quality Band Rings such as here illustrated. They are 14k gold plate shell and will wear a long time. To introduce our monthly into new homes we will send one ring either style free if you enclose 25c. for a year's subscription to our paper. This monthly is one of the best published for either young or old. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I MUST enter another protest against the carelessness of many people who send their impressions to me for reading. I have before me three letters of complaint from people who say they have sent their hands some months ago but have never seen any readings. I have also one package of smoked paper impressions containing not a line or a mark anywhere in or outside the package by which I can guess where it comes from. In the cases of the three letters of complaint the hands have never been received. Now, how is it possible for me to comply with the requests unless you will on your side comply with the full instructions and conditions which are so often given in this column.

I will, however, state them once more as explicitly as possible. Never send a package of impressions without placing inside of them, on the back of the impressions preferably, the name and address of the sender with the nom de plume desired. So much is allowed by the postal authorities in a package. If a note is contained, full letter postage would have to be paid on the package. Unless these instructions are complied with it is utterly impossible for me to keep track of your readings and I cannot even read those which do not contain a nom de plume or any scrap of information. It is always best to send the letter in the package but if you don't, please remember that you must positively put your name and address on the back of the impressions, as with so many impressions coming into this office at once it is utterly impossible to distinguish them if they are not properly labelled. Have I said enough, so that you will be careful hereafter?

A lady of Chalk Mound, Kansas, has written two letters with regard to impressions of her hands which she claims to have sent last January. I have here a package of hands without a line on them anywhere, but they are taken on the back of certain paper advertising a corset from Little Rock. It is possible that these are her hands although they have not on them the nom de plume which she claims—Despondent. I will give her a reading from these hands as I do not know who they can belong to if they are not hers. If they are not hers will she please send a new impression, referring to this reading and her former letters, and I will try it over again. This seems to be the best I can do.

I also have two letters from a gentleman in Eliza, Ky. with regard to his reading of hands sent in March. These I have never received. Will he kindly forward them at once. Again M. A. of Portland, Ore., claims to have sent hands which have never been received. If she will forward them once more and have them properly marked with her name I will read them as soon as possible.

"Despondent" denotes the hand which I shall read and which I referred to above as being unlabelled. I should judge by the appearance of the hand that the owner of it would naturally be of a desponding disposition and that she would be easily discouraged by the many petty troubles which ways have and will beset her path. She has a strong, fearless nature which has helped her through many troubles, but her disposition causes her to worry somewhat and this she cannot help. Her health has never been of the very best. I should judge she has some constitutional weakness which leads her to look on the dark side of things rather than on the light. She has had interference from outside people, some of whom have been very near to her heart and these have caused her many worries. She has never been allowed to go her own way without consulting the wishes of others. She should take courage, however, because later, say after she has passed the age of forty, her lines are much clearer and life will be much brighter for her. Some outside change will come after fifty and she will have peace and comfort through to the end. She will live to be at least seventy. There are many journeys but they are short ones and will never lead her far from her native place. Her head line is deeply indented in many places which would indicate periods of great grief or else some nervous trouble or affection of the brain, possibly nothing more serious than severe headaches. There has been some serious disappointment in matters of the heart early in life before this person was twenty, which not only affected her heart but her head as well, bringing great grief and making life very dark for a time. She recovers from this, however, and marries at about thirty. She will have several engagements but her last marriage, which will take place at about fifty, will be much the best and most successful. "Despondent" should be patient and keep up her courage as the world will certainly grow brighter for her after middle life; in fact the first twenty-five years of her life are much the hardest. She has a strong character, a kind heart and good disposition, with a philosophic temperament and artistic tendencies. This impression has not been secured with fixative and is somewhat rubbed so that it is not possible to make out all the lines clearly.

It is a pleasure to take up such an impression as is sent by "Une Parisienne" which is beautifully taken and carefully secured with fixative which makes it easy to read. This hand was accompanied by a separate letter but it was also marked plainly with the nom de plume and on the outside of the carefully-done-up package the name and address of the sender.

This is exactly as it should be and is what I desire everyone who sends hands to this department to do.

"Une Parisienne" has a hand which denotes a light and rather volatile temperament with strong characteristics and a very sensitive nature. She is a person of great tact and knows how to manage other people beautifully, never making enemies and understanding how to meet whims and caprices of others; at the same time she has very strong will power and can control others without their knowing it or in the least understanding why. In matters of the heart she is rather capricious. She has many admirers and is somewhat fickle to outside appearances although when she finds the right man she will be true to him even though she may not be able to resist her natural tendency to a flirtation. She is married somewhere from twenty-five to thirty and will outlive her first husband. A second marriage will take place much later in life. She is highly successful in whatever she undertakes although most of her success will come during the latter part of her life. She will have riches and will be well known. However, she will always have some difficulties to contend with, many of which will be due to her own disposition and temperament. Her right hand is better than her left, showing that she has made a good use of all her faculties and developed them to the utmost. Some change took place in her early life before she was fifteen which has materially affected life since that time. It is impossible for me to say what that change was, but possibly she has not followed exactly what her parents designed for her. As I said before, however, her life will be successful and happy in the main although she will see many troubles which might break down an ordinary woman. She has a very strong, firm character with great perseverance and energy, always carrying through what she undertakes. She is highly artistic and would make a good musician or teacher of languages or physics. She would also probably succeed upon the stage or lecture platform as she has great powers of oratory and mimicry. There are no bad signs in her hand, everything pointing to ultimate success and triumph, but her temperament will cause her to see many discouraged moments. She has asked for everything I can see in her hands. I have given this although in many cases when this is asked for the person finds fault afterwards.

"If 'Lygia' will send fresh impressions of her hands at once, taking particular care to put the nom de plume on the back of impression, I will be glad to give her another reading as there seems to have been some mistake about the former one. I fear that it was one of those hands which was not properly labelled. F. O. H. wishes to know where in the hand are refinement and gentleness shown. These are read from the entire character of the hand taken as a whole or at least of the palm, as are also the qualities of patience and perseverance. The latter are shown, however, partly by the distance between the head and life line at the start. Squares on the mount of the moon would show some protection at the period of life indicated by the connecting lines. If on the fate line the age would have to be reckoned according to the ages on that or if on the head line it would show some serious brain trouble at the age indicated. From the diagram sent it is impossible to tell exactly. May I ask once more that you will seriously consider the conditions which I have mentioned above.

Digitus

ANOTHER READER HAS BEEN MAKING MONEY EASILY.

I noticed in a recent number of your valuable paper that one of your readers had been very successful selling Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, and thought my experience would be interesting too. It is simply wonderful how much better these new fruit flavoring powders are than the liquid extracts sold in stores, when you stop to think they cost only about half as much. You use them for cakes, custards, candies, ice cream etc., just like the liquid. We used them ourselves and liked them so well that I wrote the manufacturers, W. H. Baird & Co., 247 Telephone Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa., for samples and tried selling them to my neighbors. I only commenced a short time ago, but the powders are fast becoming celebrated around here and I have built up a steady trade from regular customers, often making over \$25.00 a week. I never knew of such an easy way to make money and I would recommend anyone having a little spare time to write this firm, for they are very generous in their dealings. R. L. C.

Digitus

1500 SEWING MACHINES

SECOND-HAND Standard makes, \$3 to \$10. Showroom or slightly used samples, \$7 to \$12. Three years on trial. New Machines ONE-FOURTH PRICE. Largest dealers in the world. Write for Bargain Offer, James L. Nead & Co., Dept. 27 B, Chicago.

A NEW BLOOD CURE FREE.

A Trial Treatment Sent Privately By Mail Free To All Who Suffer.

There has been discovered by the State Medical Institute, 173 East Block, Ft. Wayne, Ind., the most remarkable blood cure ever heard of. It has cured all such indications of blood disease as mucous patches in mouth, sore throat, copper colored spots, ulcerations on the body and in hundreds of cases where the hair and eyebrows had fallen out and the whole skin was a mass of boils, pimples and ulcers this wonderful specific has completely changed the whole body into a clean, perfect condition of physical health. Every railroad running into Ft. Wayne brings scores of sufferers seeking this new and marvelous cure and to enable those who cannot travel to realize what a truly marvelous work the Institute is accomplishing they will send free to every sufferer a free trial treatment so that everyone can cure themselves in the privacy of their own home. Do not hesitate to write at once and the free trial will be sent by mail sealed in a plain package.

1500 SEWING MACHINES

SECOND-HAND Standard makes, \$3 to \$10. Showroom or slightly used samples, \$7 to \$12. Three years on trial. New Machines ONE-FOURTH PRICE. Largest dealers in the world. Write for Bargain Offer, James L. Nead & Co., Dept. 27 B, Chicago.

A NEW BLOOD CURE FREE.

A Trial Treatment Sent Privately By Mail Free To All Who Suffer.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

In the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchily advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make over 500,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Core Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us. They will write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than \$5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order and Measure Custom Tailoring (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a \$25,000 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to \$5.00 and upward; Pants from \$1.50 to \$3.00. We show a large line of suits at from \$5.00 to \$9.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome, leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of the most fashionable Fashions, etc.; a book which COSTS US \$5.00 PER DOZ.; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Kit (Confidential Price List). The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling price, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$5.00 profit on every order. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK FROM US OF AT LEAST \$40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received. If found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages, the \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures as you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR \$1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to \$25.00. Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, put out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges for the outfit, when received. If found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages, I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.
Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.
Your age _____
Married or single _____
Address your letters plainly to
AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

TWO COSTLY PRESENTS; You Get Both.

WE TRUST AGENTS with 12 new style, Stone Set, Enamel Seal and Stick Pins, different patterns. Everybody wears them. Sell to your friends for 10 cents each, and we give you Free a Fine Gold or Silver Inlaid Bracelet (with lock and key), also this magnificent Solid Gold Inlaid Band Ring, handsomely engraved, a perfect beauty, wears a lifetime. Send name; no money required until pins are sold; we take all not sold. Address PEARL PIN CO., Providence, R. I.

FAT

How to Reduce It

Mrs. L. Lanier, Mar. 1900, writes: "I reduced my weight 2 1/2 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 5 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO., R. Box St. Louis, Mo.

BLACKHEADS

and Pimples removed in 2 to 4 days. Perfectly harmless, never fails. Send 10 cents. SPECIFIC REMEDY CO., Dept. K, Cleveland, Ohio.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME. \$1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

MENDING TISSUE

Repair all kinds of clothing. Woolen and Cotton, Silks and Satin, Kid Gloves, Umbrellas, Shoes and Rubbers. Better than needles and thread. One package lasts a whole family a year. You sell at 35 cents and every purchaser will recommend you to friends. Samples sent you for 10 cents. One dozen, 60c. Agents make money fast selling these. Address, HARTZ & GRAY, Box 407, NEW YORK, N. Y.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIE, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs. RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxien the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxien is making them every day. In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for Rheumatism and it made a record of absolute cures in Acute Rheumatism, frequently called Rheumatic Fever, Pericarditis (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), Endocarditis (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), subacute rheumatism, sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, chronic rheumatism, which swells and twists the joints and sciatica, or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

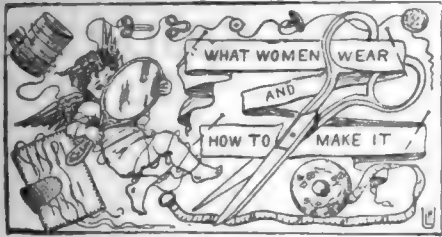
"Received OXIE O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or find myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up. But OXIE did it and you can imagine how happy I am now." Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feb. 19th, 1900.

This momentous offer we make in order to introduce Oxien to the public. We will send you a box of Oxien absolutely free of charge. Write plainly as our work is badly rushed.

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE.

This amazing rheumatism remedy in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a box free send at once, yet to-day. Write plainly as our work is badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



If ever there was a time when envy, hatred and malice, to say nothing of fully developed uncharitableness, were stirred up and likely to envelop all in a comprehensive wave, that time is now. How can it be otherwise? All around us are things of beauty we cannot possess—gowns of surpassing loveliness, hats of surprising extravagance and chic, jewels so rare and glittering that the pure and heart pour out their treasure before them, and yet are far from securing them. Choice of garments has become a burden to the soul, for where all is lovely, how to select the loveliest, and most difficult task of all, how to close one's eyes to the beauties that fade and be sternly virtuous in the selection of the things that "wear." The woman of limited means has a modern martyrdom before her, a discipline she will hardly relish, but which she cannot evade. Looking at the matter from all sides I should be inclined to think that her hardest task will lie in the selection of her cape or coat.

The shawl model at which we wondered and scoffed a year ago has revenge itself by ousting all other modes. In a greater or less degree every cape has a pointed back; if not actually and literally pointed, it is certainly far longer at the back than at the front.

Heresy as it is always deemed to cavil at what Madame la Mode may decree is fitting we should wear, I yet venture to assert that it takes a very well-dressed and essentially smart woman to carry these sloping wraps with any degree of distinction. Badly put on they reduce the wearer either to a general aspect of untidiness, or convert her into something quite the reverse of a thing of beauty. One point it is imperative should be considered for each individual and that is the position at which the curves of the trimmings are put—a little higher, or a little lower makes all the difference between a "May pole" effect and chic.

Like the mystic ladies of old we are to fade away into earth in voluminous folds which conceal the feet, and taper towards heaven with shoulders compressed into the most sloping of lines. The caricaturist has ample scope for his powers in the distant view or outline of a fashionable woman. It is only close acquaintance that reveals the loveliness of the creation which she wears, for it must be conceded that manufacturers have excelled themselves; if it were not so, some of the modes would be unsupportable. Eton jackets and shirt-waisted open-fronted coats find a large amount of favor for regular wear and all of them are made to fit into the figure at the waist, for this reason; sacque back garments have gone out of date.

Skirts continue to be quite tight-fitting around the front and over the hips, but there is slightly more fullness at the back and the prevailing idea among all the newest skirts is to have the center of the back seam completely closed up, the opening being at the left side seam; the best place for the pocket is in the back seam below the fullness of the figure.

Lace robes and silk gauzes are being very much used for fete gowns, the foundation being of glaze or a soft make of Duchesse, called Oriental satin. If made to order, costumes of this kind run into a lot of money, but any one who has the time to spare and the inclination can produce one of these high-class costumes for a very small outlay. All that is needed is a good, reliable pattern of a foundation, on which the shaped out skirt is loosely arranged and the bodice pieces gathered over the tight-fitting foundation. Fifteen yards of glaze or soft satin would be sufficient to make a skirt and bodice foundation, including a silk frill for decorating the hem of the skirt.

Fine quality French wool poplins are very much in favor for making up into better class gowns for wearing to church or various fashionable gatherings. Gray, orchid shades and stone colors are the most popular and the foundation is generally some brilliant hue that harmonizes with the shade of the dress.

A pretty Paris model is made up of pale gray poplin lined throughout with cerise glaze silk: the sleeves and the square back and front of the bodice are all-over guipure lace, the rich



A SMART BODICE.

colored silk beneath showing through the meshes of the lace with a particularly pleasing effect; satin to match the gray material is

used to swath the shoulders and outline the fullness of the figure, somewhat in the style of bolero. An eight inch circular flounce at the foot of the skirt is finished with two tiny bias ruffles, each edged with a tiny piping of gray satin.

At the present moment, when nine out of every ten women wear a lace bow beneath the chin, or if not actually lace, something of the kind, it is just as well for them to be told that every soft bow does not suit every face or every complexion, and that it is wise for a woman to find what special style of soft fluffiness does become her before embarking upon a purchase of it. As a rule, the cream colored lace bows are more becoming than those of dead white, and the soft silk bows, either plain or with tiny sprays of flowers on them are very charming.

A very suitable gown for the season is presented here being tailor made, and yet having that chic which only the touch of the French can impart; the soft, fluffy vest of creamy mousseline de soie, laid in fine French tucks and tiny frills, and the revers of yellow lace instead of cloth, giving an air of grace and daintiness to the costume very pleasing to see. The long, trailing skirt has a habit back with the braided pattern outlining a jacket shape over the hips, running up either side of the open jacket front and finishing at the center of the back. The same trimming ornaments the foot of the skirt. The material chosen for this gown is a decidedly yellow shade of tan melton with a finish like velvet, while the braid is black picked out with white.

No end of smart bodices are being shown for



FICHU EFFECT.



A SEASONABLE GOWN.

autumn wear before wraps are put on, all more or less showing combinations of silk, velvet, cloth and lace.

NERVES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



background.

I shall never forget my first and only fit of hysteria, which occurred when I was about eighteen years old. I never had another, for this same wise and tender mother, when she had scolded and threatened me until I had succeeded, unaided, in regaining control of myself, fondled me into calmness while gently and clearly explaining what had been the matter with me, and the means which I should have taken to prevent the attack; and, fortified and enlightened by her counsels, I never again allowed myself to get into such a state.

I take no credit to myself that I am not now a nervous, hysterical woman. I attribute it wholly to my mother's wise, tender and watchful care of me; and I have the greatest pity for the many women who are helpless victims to hysteria in its many forms, and say to myself "Oh, why was there not some one to warn them in the beginning of the danger of giving way to

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their feelings!" When one has once given way it is easy to do it again; so I say to you Don't do it. Keep a firm hold of yourself to be calm and quiet. Above all else, don't worry over things. A little worry does more harm than a great deal of work. If you can help a trouble, do so, but if you cannot, do not spend your strength worrying about it. Turn your thoughts to something else. Try to keep your surroundings pleasant. Don't use a spluttering pen or a gritty pencil, a rusty or a blunt needle, or a pan or kettle that leaks and needs the constant application of twists of rag to the hole. Never have dull tools. Keep a small whetstone or grindstone in the kitchen, and see to it that knives and scissors are always sharp. Oil your creaking door-hinge, and pay prompt attention to the smallest cry from your sewing machine. Try to have an easy chair without rockers for your uneasy caller, and doctor the complaining joints of the rocking chair with a little oil or a drop of glue. If Johnnie's new shoes nearly drive you frantic with their squeak just take a small gimlet and bore a hole half way through the sole from the inside of the shoe. This gives a vent for the air between the layers of sole leather, and lo! the horrible sound is stilled.

All these things may be trifles, but it is generally the little things of life that rasp the overstrained nerves of the tired woman.

One thing more, and I have done. Always make a point of reserving to yourself some time in the course of the day, even if it is only fifteen minutes, when you can shut yourself up alone for a complete rest of mind and body. Lie down, close your eyes, fold your hands, and think of nothing—for as long a time as you can spare from your other duties; for this, I assure you, is as much your duty as any other part of the day's doings. You have no idea, until you have tried it, how much this little rest will help you through the remainder of the day's trials, nor what a quietus it puts upon those troublesome "nerves."

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Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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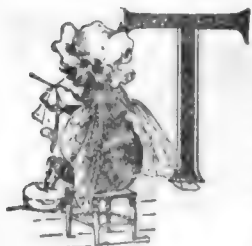
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



are enough to make it a popular trimming; the only wonder is that it should ever have gone out of favor—or fashion—as it has.

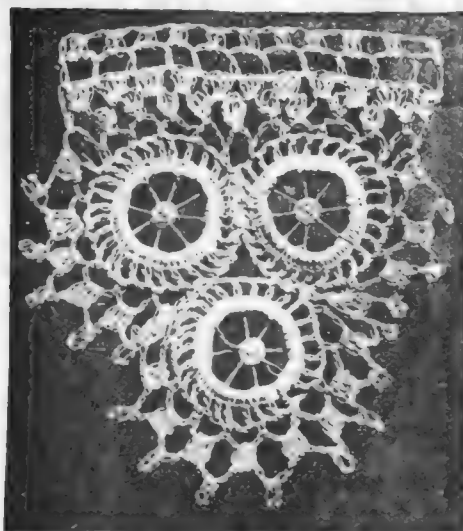
For children's aprons, collars and underclothes it is unsurpassed in daintiness, and for decorative purposes such as ties it is also desirable. An illustration herewith shows a section of a linen handkerchief which has a full ruffle of bobinet lace, at the top and bottom of which is a row of the smallest sized tatting loop, making altogether a dainty, durable and odd handkerchief. The handkerchief itself may first be made, if so desired, by buying fine linen, cutting it by the thread into the size of square desired, and then hem-stitching it. After this the tatting is sewn on, and then the footing is laid onto the tatting, and lastly another row of tatting is sewed onto the edge of the footing. The footing is a narrow lace net that is woven with self edges, some plain, and some with a dot. That about one and one-fourth inches wide costs five cents a yard.

We give directions for making a doiley, or tidy of tatting and the same directions may be used in several different ways for small, large, round, square, or diamond shaped doilies—according to the wish or ingenuity of the maker.

Make 16 rings in a row, each ring consisting of 6 d. s. and 5 p. Join rings in usual way; also join 16th ring to 1st ring thus forming a circle; fasten ring under last ring.

Make each ring of 2nd round with 12 d. s. and 5 p. separated by 2 d. s.; join the rings in the usual way. A Dainty Handkerchief. Make 1st. ring, draw up and join to 3rd p. in 1st ring in last round; join 2nd and 3rd rings to 2nd and 3rd rings in last round; join 4th and 5th rings to 4th ring in last round; continue in same way all round, always joining, 2 rings to every 4 rings in last round; there must be 20 rings in 2nd round. Make 3 more circles like the one just made and join the 4 to form a square. Then make a row of large and small rings all round the 5 circles. Take the shuttle and begin at one corner by making a small ring of 4 d. s. and 3 p.; join 2nd p. to 3rd p. of ring in corner of circle, turn make a large ring, 16 d. s. and 7 p. separated by 2 d. s.; turn, make another small ring like 1st except that you join the 1st p. to last p. of 1st ring; finish ring, turn, make a small ring, join 1st p. to last p. of large ring, turn, make small ring, join 2nd p. to 3rd p. of 2nd ring of circle, turn and continue making large and small rings until you have joined 7 small rings on the side of a corner circle; then make 5 small rings in the inside of row to the next circle; then join 14 small rings around the 2nd corner; continue on side as before and so on around the square. There must always be a small ring between each 2 large rings on the outside circle, and always a small ring between every 2 that are joined to circle; join last ring to 1st in usual way.

The next 2 rounds are composed of wheels. Each wheel has a center ring and 10 small surrounding rings. Make center with 11 d. s. and 10 p., draw up, make small ring with 6 d. s. and 5 p. join 3rd p. to 4th p. of 1st large ring

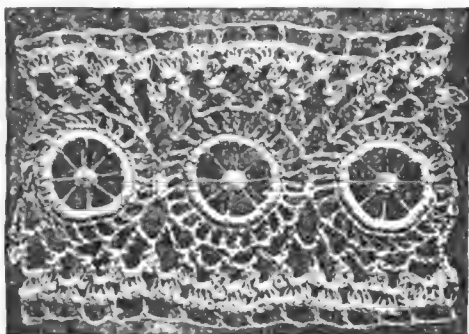


CROCHET TRIMMING.

on corner of last row, finish ring, draw up, join to 1st of p. of center. Make 9 more, joining each ring in usual way; also join each ring to center and the last ring to 1st; fasten thread

under wheel.

Now leave 1-2 inch of thread, make 2nd wheel like 1st except join 1st and 2nd rings to 4th and 3rd rings of last wheel; make 3rd ring, then join 4th ring to next large ring in last round; finish wheel like 1st which makes 2 wheels on corner. Make 3rd wheel, join 1st 2 rings to last wheel, make 3rd ring, skip 1 large ring in last row and join 4th ring to next large ring; finish wheel. Always skip a large ring in last row between each wheel, until you reach 3 large rings on corner; then join a wheel to each large ring around corner; then make next side like last. Continue all around on last corner, and join a wheel to last large ring so there will be 3 wheels on corner. Join last wheel to 1st in usual way. Fasten the thread under the wheel, and make last round of wheels same as 1st round, except that you join 1st wheel to wheel on side; finish wheel same as last row. Make 2nd wheel, join 1st ring to 3rd ring in last wheel, join 3rd wheel to next wheel of last row, and finish it. Continue joining wheel to each wheel on side until you reach 3 wheels on corner, join a wheel to 1st wheel on corner, then make 1 wheel without joining, then join 1 to corner wheel, then make a wheel again without joining, and so



CROCHET INSERTION.

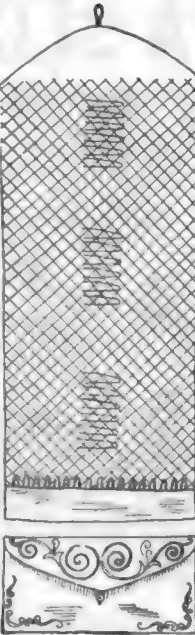
continue until the doily has as many rows as is desired.

Mrs. Darrow, of Minneapolis, has sent us directions for making a very pretty crocheted edge, with insertion to match, and which we also illustrate. She says:

"This makes a handsome trimming for aprons; one could be trimmed with the insertion only. I use No. 30 Coats' thread. To make the rings put the thread on the forefinger of the left hand just below the nail and wind around the finger 30 times; slip this coil off, hold it between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, crochet 's. c. stitch all around the ring, keeping the stitches close together, draw thread through the first s. c. stitch. Make 5 ch, slip 1 s. c. and make 1 tr., 2 ch, skip 1 s. c. and tr. in stitch; repeat until you have worked all around the ring. Cut the thread, leaving 3 inches of thread to fasten into thick part of ring; cut thread close. With a needle and thread make a spider stitch in center of each ring; the first ring is finished entirely; the others are joined according to illustration.

The insertion is joined in straight rows according to illustration, crocheting edges on each side. Another way to make trimming with the rings is to join as for insertion, but don't crochet any edge; instead, baste smoothly on cloth, sew the edges down; then make button-hole stitch over the edge, top and bottom, onto cloth. Cut away the cloth that is under the rings. This makes a handsome insertion. For an edge sew the row of rings on to the edge of hem or cloth so that one-half of ring comes below, then button-hole the top edge on; then cut away the cloth that is under the ring and crochet an edge on the bottom of rings. There is a great variety of ways to use the rings; they make a handsome yoke for nightdress or wrapper; or use only in front of yoke making a deep point or square in front of yoke, having a large collar turning back from it. A cluster of these would be pretty on a pin-cushion, or doiley, and are just the thing to use in Battenburg lace.

Our illustration of a hairpin case, shows something quite novel and very convenient, especially for traveling. The case measures about 15 inches by 5 inches, and is made of linen in gray, lined with light blue silesia, and over the silesia in white, stiff net. One end of the case is turned up for a couple of inches, thus forming a pocket, into which the larger hairpins are stuck. The other end is finished off with a point and a small loop of narrow ribbon. The small invisible hairpins are run in and out of the net, in the case, and so kept in place and the whole case is folded over several times until it is about the size of an envelope. The outside may be decorated by embroidery or by a conventional design in water color, and a small button should be put on over which the loop fastens. This is a small, flat article when filled and folded, and so takes up little room in a hand bag, and it does keep track of the hairpins in a most admirable fashion.



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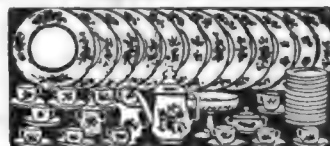
The International Correspondence Schools,
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The land near Amsterdam, Holland, is particularly soft, and when first reclaimed, is almost impossible to cultivate, owing to the danger to the horses of sinking in it sufficiently to break their legs. Although exceedingly productive during its first year, the farmer is usually compelled to allow it to lie fallow for two or three seasons, that it may become sufficiently hard to bear the weight of the horse. An ingenious fellow has lately overcome this difficulty for himself, and reaped a valuable harvest by so doing. He accustomed his horses, during the winter, to moving about with broad pieces of lumber fastened to their feet, and when spring opened he boldly set forth with his horses shod in this way, to the cultivation of his wet, soft land. His neighbors scoffed and jeered, but he went serenely on, and was able, at the end of the season, to show a purseful of money as the result of his experiment. His neighbors now wish that they had followed his example.

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GIRLS and Boys earn jewelry, sporting goods easy. Write for list. **Excelsior Bluing Co.,** 56 LaSalle St., Chicago.

SUGAR 21-25 lb. 30c. Coffee 10c. Bar Soap 1c. 35c. Envelopes 1c. With This Is Known—L. E. Cape St. House 25c. Merg's Suite 75c. All orders 4c. value. **Vergain Ltd FREE.** **DOUGLAS COMPANY,** Waukegan, Wis.

COCOA CREAM. Skin nourished, beautified, wrinkles smoothed, neck made plump. Sample 10c. Perfumed face powder, white or pink 25c. Box 183, Everett, Pa.

\$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller. **FRANK MFG. CO.,** Station 31 Cincinnati, O.

DEWEY BOOK. Latest and best. 600 pages, grandly illustrated. Only \$1.50. Agents wanted. Big terms. Credit. Freight paid. Full outfit free. Send 2-cent stamps for mailing. **STANDARD PUBLISHING CO.,** 41 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED. Limited number reliable agents to handle our newly patented specialties. \$5.00 to \$20.00 per day, easily made by workers. **THE TUSCARAWAS MFG. CO.,** Canal Dover, Ohio.

DON'T SET HENS The Same Old Way. The Natural Hen Incubator beats the old plan 3 to 1. 100-egg Hatcher only \$5. Cheap in price but mighty as a money maker. These birds in use Great Investment in poultrydom. Special laboratory Offer. Agents wanted. Send your address for catalogue to day. Address **NATURAL HEN INCUBATOR CO.** D-54 Columbus Neb.

LADY OR MAN wanted to travel and appoint agents. \$60 per month salary and all expenses. **ZIEGLER CO.,** 204 Locust St., Phila.

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special **PANIC PACKAGES** to any one sending 10c. for a three month's subscription to **COMFORT**, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of **SILK FLUSH** contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for \$1.00.

A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goodshate sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for \$1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handsome Spanish *How-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is a life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, \$7.50 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Tests and this paper 5 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, \$1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 25c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c. Address **COMFORT PUB. CO.,** Box 783, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE ART of carving should be mastered by every man, and women would do well, also, to be well up in it—for when the head of the house is absent it of course falls to the housewife to do this, and of course she should be able to do it gracefully and well, as she does everything else.

Thomas J. Murrey, an authority on carving, gives us the following suggestions:

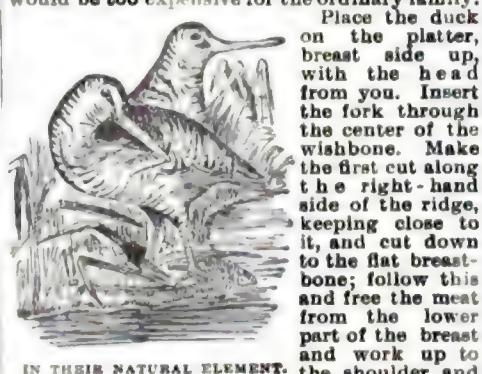
In the first place, the carving knife must be sharp; it is impossible to carve otherwise, though of course the meat may be hacked off—and the temper of the carver should be preserved at all hazards.

The carver should of course have a chair that is higher than those used by the rest of the family, as it is exceedingly awkward to carve when sitting in a low chair before a high table. The carver's elbow should be about on a line with the table. Hold the knife gracefully but firmly, with the thumb extended over the back of the knife, instead of the forefinger, as the control over the knife is much greater.

In carving a sirloin of beef, the thickest end

ming off considerable of the fat around the edges. To carve a whole ham, make an incision in the thickest part of the ham, down to the bone, and work towards the large end. The knife used for carving ham should be very thin and very sharp, so that the slices will be thin and even. Where a family is small one or two slices may be taken off the ham before it is boiled, to be used for frying.

To carve a canvas-back duck, each guest is supposed to receive half of the plump flesh of the breast—but in families the breast may be divided into four pieces, as otherwise the meal would be too expensive for the ordinary family.



IN THEIR NATURAL ELEMENT.

Place the duck on the platter, breast side up, with the head from you. Insert the fork through the center of the wishbone. Make the first cut along the right-hand side of the ridge, keeping close to it, and cut down to the flat breast-bone; follow this and free the meat from the lower part of the breast and work up to the shoulder and separate the meat there. Carve left side in same manner.

SPRING CHICKEN.

To know when a broiler is fat and juicy, examine the backbone; the greater the amount of fat there, the fatter will be the chicken all over. A roasted chicken is placed on the table with the head from you; the first cut is a slight one on the right breast down to the wing, and without removing the knife the wing is removed. Then the leg is cut off and then the wing and leg on the other side. Cut the breast in two, by separating it from the back; turn the breast and cut it in two from the inside.

One of our readers sent us, some time ago, the following recipe—which are a little out of the ordinary, for which reason we give them:

DAMSON SWEET PICKLE.

To one pound of damsons put three-fourth sugar, half pint vinegar, and mace, cloves, cinnamon, allspice and ginger to your taste. Boil sugar, vinegar and spices together, and pour over the fruit. Scald the syrup every other day for three days; the last day add the fruit and cook until the fruit pops open. It keeps well if good vinegar is used.

DAMSON JELLY.

In making above pickle there is much more syrup made than is needed to cover the pickle. Strain out the surplus and to each pint add one pound of white sugar and boil rapidly till it jellies. It is delicious.

To make good rolls or bread quickly take very sour, thick buttermilk that has stood till all the whey has risen and been poured off. Make a dough as for soda biscuit, except add a little sugar and twice the usual quantity of soda; knead well, make into loaves or rolls, let rise and bake. Mother uses this recipe altogether and the bread is light, sweet and as good as that from yeast.

A LARGE MUSICAL FACTORY.

The manufacture of the American Pianos and Organs by Messrs. Cornish at their immense factories at Washington, New Jersey, is one of the most interesting exhibitions possible. The vast works are really wonderful, and the making of the Cornish American Pianos and Organs can be followed in all stages, and they now build and ship at the rate of 50 Pianos and Organs per day, or 18,000 per annum. We advise everybody to write for the Juvenile Illustrated Catalogue issued by this enterprising and entirely reliable firm; the frontispiece is printed in color and is a unique reproduction of a celebrated painting representing St. Cecilia and the Heavenly Choir. It will be sent free to anyone addressing Messrs. Cornish & Co., at Washington, New Jersey, and mentioning this paper.

The watermelon was cultivated in Egypt B. C. 2500. It grows wild all over Africa.

FOR MEN ONLY.

Free Trial Package of This New Discovery Mailed to Every Man Sending Name and Address—Quickly Restores Strength and Vigor.

Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

TO CARVE A HAM.

When a whole ham appears on the table its appearance should first be improved by trim-

BEE'S RABBIT.

The domestic duck is the most exasperating fowl to carve. Place on the platter with the tail towards the carver. Insert the fork in the left side close down to the backbone. First cut three thin slices from the right side of the breast, then cut off the wing, which is only in the way. Continue carving the breast until the wishbone gets in the way. Then carve the other side in same manner. The legs may be served but are not very dainty and are usually left for the servants.

The foregoing applies in a general way to the carving of a goose. The stuffing should not be served, as it is so thoroughly soaked with goose grease.

TAILOR MADE SUIT \$5.98

THE SUIT is made by Expert Tailors from Ford's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth famous for its rich, soft bloom and beautiful appearance. The Jacket is made in latest single breasted style, superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, beautifully silk faced and elegantly lined with real French silk. The skirt is lined and interlined, has nobly welted seams, new style back, full width and hangs gracefully and stylishly. Guaranteed strictly tailor made and worth fully \$10.00. Choice of black or blue colors.

SEND NO MONEY but send this ad. Free a large sample of the cloth and our Big Catalog of other Suits, Jackets, Caps and Shirts, or send us \$1, with color desired, give bust and waist measure, length of skirt down front from skirt band to bottom and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination. When it arrives examine carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfect, then pay the express agent the balance (\$4.98 and expressage). Send today quick for free sample and catalog or send The Royal Trust Co., Bank, Chicago, any Chicago, Wisconsin, house or any express company in America.

REFERENCES
THE LOUIS E. VENUS CO., 145 W. Jackson St., CHICAGO.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

FREE NO MONEY WANTED

Is in your own pocket. BOYS, GIRLS and LADIES send your full address, plainly written and we will mail you 10 packages of our sweet and fragrant AMERICAN BEAUTY PERFUME (in each form) to sell among friends at 10 CENTS each. When sold remit us the money, and we will forward postpaid for your work, all of it. Following elegant presents, viz: Latest Style Sterling Silver-plated NETHERKOLE BRACELET, also a beautiful Gold Plated Ladies' NECK CHAIN, and a handsomely Engraved Gold Shell BAND RING, together with an imitation DIAMOND SCARF or Silk Pin, provided you dispose of the Perfume and make returns within THIRTY DAYS. Order 10 packages at once and address, AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, No. 100 Trust Building, BRIDGEWATER, CONN.

WE ARE Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.

All the strange parcels that find their way into the mail bags, one in the shape of a coconut is the strangest ever received in the vicinity of Boston, Mass. A parcel of this shape came to the Boston Herald, from a Boston man traveling in Cuba. It was too large to go into the mail bag, however, and was carried by hand to its destination, from the postoffice. Stamps amounting to 26 cents were pasted directly onto the pod, the name and address were written on the nut itself. It came through in good shape, and one could plainly hear the milk swishing around inside.

Silk, be it ever so badly creased, may be restored by sponging with alcohol and water, and afterwards rolled tightly around picture rollers and left to dry for several hours. A clean deal board or table should be used for the sponging, and the application of the sponge should be made with some force so that the creases may become thoroughly wet. Silk should never be ironed.

The most complicated and wonderful typewriter in the world has lately been invented by an American missionary in China. It prints four thousand distinct characters, which number are absolutely necessary for transacting business in the Chinese language. It takes four motions to print each character, but even then much time is saved, for in writing the Chinese characters from two to twenty-five strokes of the brush are required. Each character represents not a single letter but an entire word.

A PURE ALUMINUM PENCIL. FRONTED SILVER FINISH.

A beautiful automatic pocket pencil made of pure aluminum, the lightest, toughest and longest wearing metal in existence. Looks like frosted silver and will wear for five years, has rubber on end and movable lead. Makes a handsome present and is rich and distinguished looking when taken from pocket or desk. Will send one free if you will immediately send seven cents for mailing charges and a trial three months' subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Sample copy free on application.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. 1, Brooklyn, N. Y.

HAIR LIKE THIS

WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE---

To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the balddest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for mailed package. Address Lorrimer & Co., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

THE MAGICAL SPONGE.
THE WONDER OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Glass, Metal, Silver, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device, entirely new and universal in demand. Will set a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liverman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No soap or water is needed or even used. With the Magical Sponge for cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has great value, as it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is on the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For cleaning Houseboards, Window Sills, Wallcoatings and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Business places all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 3 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make this a business proposition. Write at once, enclosing your territory.

Address: COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

AGENTS WANTED for Dr. Worst's Scientific Catarrh Inhaler. Sample free. \$75 a month easily made. Dr. WORST, Ashland, O.

MRS. DeMORT, Box 02, Toledo, O. FREE sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies.

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalog. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO. Chicago, Ill.

SAY have you read the ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.'s notice to Agents on last page. You can afford to miss it. It is the greatest offer to Agents ever made by any firm on earth.

\$7 PAID per copy for distributing samples of our medicine. Send to sample the cure. A. W. MOFFET, Chicago, Ill.

FREE To one reliable person in every town or village, a 66-piece Dinner Set. P. F. Co., Box 2617, N. Y. C.

YOUR LIFE FORETOLD. Written prediction of your life. Send age, sex, lock of hair, 10 cents. PROF. G. RUPPERT, Boston, Mass.

\$200 in Gold FREE

We will show you how to get \$200 in gold free, besides giving you your choice of a valuable list of premiums, such as a Silverware Service, Photo Camera, Silver Tray, Silver Tea Set, Gold Watches, etc., if you will devote a few hours of your spare time to our business. Send stamp for particulars. Bay State Drug & Chemical Co., 7 Central St., Boston, Mass.

FREE NO MONEY WANTED

Is in your own pocket. BOYS, GIRLS and LADIES send your full address, plainly written and we will mail you 10 packages of our sweet and fragrant AMERICAN BEAUTY PERFUME (in each form) to sell among friends at 10 CENTS each. When sold remit us the money, and we will forward postpaid for your work, all of it. Following elegant presents, viz: Latest Style Sterling Silver-plated NETHERKOLE BRACELET, also a beautiful Gold Plated Ladies' NECK CHAIN, and a handsomely Engraved Gold Shell BAND RING, together with an imitation DIAMOND SCARF or Silk Pin, provided you dispose of the Perfume and make returns within THIRTY DAYS. Order 10 packages at once and address, AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, No. 100 Trust Building, BRIDGEWATER, CONN.

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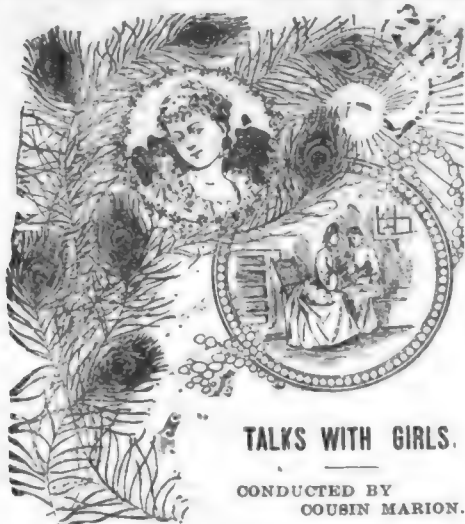
But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

There Is Help for You.
You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, dears, the summer months are gone and I hope you have all had a nice cool time with plenty of hammocks and pleasant books and a few beaus, for those of you who are out of your teens and your bibs. The autumn is coming apace and with it we must go to work again, and after all, I think we are happier while we are busy than while we are doing nothing, or doing just enough to keep from going to sleep. But I mustn't talk too much. I have work to do this very minute and let us begin it.

The first letter this month is from Love, Griffin, Ga., and Cousin Love wants to know if after an engagement of three years and two postponements of the wedding she should continue it or stop. Stop by all means. If courtship is thus uncertain and unsatisfactory, just think what marriage will be. (2) Have nothing to do with the jealous man who wants all your thought and company, and gives you only as much of his as suits him.

Sweet Sixteen, Milton, W. Va.—A girl of sixteen might marry a man of forty and the marriage be an ideal one, but the chances are that it would not. There is no rule governing this kind of thing. (2) There is no definite age when a man is most "capable of the responsibilities of married life." Some men are so at twenty-one and some are not so at any age. A man of thirty with a competence, good disposition and sense ought to be just right.

Marjorie, Aurelia, Iowa.—It is proper enough for girls of fourteen to accept the attentions and courtesies of young men that girls of twenty might, but it is not advisable. Girls of fourteen ought to be studying and preparing for womanhood.

Inquirer, Pineville, Ky.—Write to Civil Service Commissioner, Washington, D. C., or inquire of your Member of Congress.

Vina B., Storm Lake, Ia.—It is not proper for a woman who is getting a divorce from her husband, no matter what kind of a man he is, to accept the attentions of other men. She should get her divorce first.

A. B. C., Nashville, Ill.—Meet the young man pleasantly, cordially and naturally, and he will understand if he wants to. If he doesn't want to, don't you think you haven't done all that is necessary, for you have.

Debutante, Templeton, Cal.—Other things being equal you may have a good complexion by taking exercise in the open air, and eating, bathing and dressing properly. (2) A girl of seventeen should dress in the simplest way possible at any entertainments she attends. Elaborate party dress is for older persons. (3) I know of no way to treat the man who will neglect his affianced for some other girl, except for his affianced to send him adrift promptly. (4) I can not suggest topics of conversation for you and the young men who call on you. Why do you have callers if you don't know what to talk to them about? (5) Yes, men like to be "fussed over." Make them think they are everything and you are nothing, and they will have the greatest admiration for your good sense, fine taste, and discriminating judgment.

Fay, Windsor, N. C.—No, it is not right for a girl of seventeen to call her sweetheart, "dear," unless she is engaged to him—and she oughtn't to be engaged at seventeen. (2) Really, Cousin Fay, I do not know what a "hun-pup" is, but I should say that it is the young of a hun-dog, if you know what that is. I don't. Ask the slangy young man from whom you heard it.

Elder Down, Worthington, Ky.—It is a pretty little courtesy to thank an usher for a seat, or a conductor, or any one who assists you. (2) There is no rule about thanking an escort for his services. Say anything you think best and when you think best. (3) Have as little as possible to do with the man who tries to be familiar.

H. F. S., Ohio.—A man of twenty-eight is not too old for a girl of seventeen, but a girl of seventeen is too young for a man of any age. Wait until he is thirty-one and you are twenty.

Cathie, Enfield, Ill.—As far as I know, there is no such "nursery" as you ask for. (2) It is proper to shake hands with a man when he is presented if you want to. (3) The camping party is all right if properly chaperoned, and it makes a very pleasant outing.

H. M. K., Saginaw, Mich.—It is difficult if not almost impossible to find unobtrusive work to do at home. I don't know about the firms asked for, but it is generally wise to know what you are going to get before you spend any money for it.

Peach, Earling, Iowa.—The form of introduction is: Miss So-and-so let me present Mr. So-and-so. You can say "introduce" instead of "present" if you wish. Either one may speak first after the introduction. (2) It is more correct for strangers to speak to each other when facing each other in a crowded street car than if they sit with their backs to each other. Why should it be? (3) The lady should not accept a bunch of sweet peas, however lovely they be, or any other flowers, from a strange man. (4) The most graceful dancers learn in childhood.

E. B., Springtown, Ark.—Cards are not customary at small, informal weddings. Written or verbal invitations will answer and they should be given a week or ten days previously, or even less than that. The bride pays for the cards. The bride's father, mother or a friend should ask the clergyman to officiate. Wear the traveling suit, hat and gloves to match. The brown is preferable to duck or crash.

Rachael, Smoky Row, Va.—It would not be etiquette for the gentleman to tell the lady that her skirt was hanging out of the buggy, so much as it would be the plain, every day, common-sense thing to do. (2) A lady should say "Yes" when asked to go driving, if she wants to go. She should thank the man for taking her after they get back safely.

Pearl H., Wheelock, Texas.—I have lost the addresses, too. Look over the advertising columns of your nearest city papers and write to any music firm for the information you want, inclosing a stamp for reply.

J. W., Hot Springs, Ark.—Wear any kind of dark, plain material for the seashore, getting something rather heavier than ordinary summer stuff worn in the interior. Take about what you would take for a visit of the same length anywhere else, except a heavier garment or two in case of cool weather which is commoner at the seashore than elsewhere. There now, that is all, and I will say by-by till the glorious month of October comes in its robes of crimson and gold, when I hope to greet you all again.

COUSIN MARION.

PLACER MINES AND MINING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE usual method of placer mining—the method that has been used by all gold-seekers from time immemorial, was simple in the extreme. The miner merely put some of the gold-bearing gravel in a shallow pan, mixed it with water, and then holding the pan in both his hands, gave it a slight rotary motion, slopping out a little sand at every revolution. The gold contained in the gravel, being heavier than the sand, sank to the bottom of the pan. Of course this could only be carried out on a small scale, and another method was also popular. In this the gravel, or "pay-dirt" as it was called, was poured in a shallow stream over a platform covered with blankets or skins. The gold stuck to the blanket while the lighter sand flowed off with the water.

Another way was to pour the pay-dirt and water into a sluice, catching the gold on ridges along the bottom. In 1852 one of the California miners set up a contrivance on his claim which was destined to develop into the magnificent hydraulic engines of to-day. He built a flume extending from a ditch in the hillside over the ravine where his mine was opened, thus giving the water a head of about forty feet. Here the stream fell into a barrel, from the bottom of which depended a hose about six inches in diameter, made of cowhide, and ending in a nozzle made of tin, about one inch in diameter at the tip. The water rushed through this tube with great force, dislodging the gravel and hurrying it down through the sluice built for the purpose.

The value of this invention was at once recognized and large hydraulic machines were built, with the tubes of iron, capable of sending a stream through a pipe two and one-half feet in diameter and with an eight inch nozzle, with force enough to move boulders weighing over two tons. One of these streams will throw a five hundred pound boulder all around, and would kill a man instantly. The water issues with such force from the pipe that it is impossible to cut the stream with a bar or an axe. There have been cases where miners have met their death by being struck by one of these streams at a distance of one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet from the nozzle.

The great difficulty the mining companies have had to meet is the lack of proper water supply. In order to secure enough water to feed these big engines millions of dollars have been spent in building flumes and reservoirs. In some instances corporations have built from two hundred and fifty to three hundred miles of ditches and flumes, and spent over \$2,000,000 before any of the actual work of mining could be done. Some claims otherwise valuable cannot be worked on account of lack of water, while on the other hand a company blessed with a good water supply declared a dividend on gravel that only contained three cents' worth of gold to the cubic yard.

Modern hydraulic mining is carried on with such care and economy that the amount of gold lost in washing is hardly worth considering. The powerful stream is turned on the side of the mountain and the rocks, boulders, gravel, sand and gold all rush down and through the sluice boxes. These are arranged with ridges in the bottom. As the stream rushes on the gold sinks to the bottom, where it is caught behind the "ripples," as the ridges are called. Behind these ripples mercury is poured, which unites with the gold. At intervals, which vary according to the richness of the mine, there is a "clean up." The water is turned off, and the mercury which is combined with the gold thus forming an "amalgam" is collected in buckets and the greatest care is taken that none is lost, the miners even exploring the cracks and nail holes in the sluice with silver spoons. The amalgam in the buckets is now well stirred, and as the coarse sand and other foreign substances that have remained rise to the top, they are carefully skimmed off. The amalgam is next strained to rid it from free quicksilver, and is then washed in a hot bath of water and sulphuric acid.

When properly purified the amalgam is put in a retort, and the top tightly sealed, except for a tube leading into a bucket of cold water. The heat vaporizes the mercury, which passes into the condenser, where it again resumes its liquid state and is ready to be used again. When the mercury has all been vaporized the retort is opened, and there is found the reward for all the trouble and work, a cone of pure gold ready for the mint.

Most of the placer mines employ two gangs of men, who work night and day. The profits of course depend upon the richness of the gravel and the expense of operating the mine. In this as in all gold mining there is a strange element of chance, which adds a touch of excitement to the otherwise hard and monotonous work.

Many of the best placer mines to-day are located in Montana, a country so wild that one who has not been there can hardly realize the extent of uncivilized country. A true incident related by a traveler on his way to one of these mines will illustrate this. On the stage-road a miner had been picked up. Two days before, while encamped on the mountain, he heard what he supposed was a panther howling in the night. He reached for his rifle and in stepping out of the door caught the trigger in the tent flap. The rifle was discharged and blew the fingers off one of the miner's hands. He started at once for the nearest town. All night and all the next day were spent in getting to where he had left his horse. Then after riding another whole day he reached the stage road. He rode a day in the stage to the railroad crossing, waited half a day for the next train, which did not reach a town large enough to boast a doctor for another whole day. Five days after the accident happened before his wound could be dressed!

\$3.00 a day sure. Without a doubt a great opportunity. For particulars see last page of this paper.

SENT FREE TO MEN

Geo. B. Wright Was Restored to Health and Makes a Generous Offer to Every Sufferer from Lost Manhood.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart, and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.



Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT, who is suffering to-day. All who will write him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of any charge whatever.

Mr. Wright says no one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except

he has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers unless he knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. Mr. Wright's case was an extreme case. He suffered for many years. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night, through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself, but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, box 810, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

\$1.00 PAID FOR CORRECT ANSWERS

VEGETABLE PUZZLE.

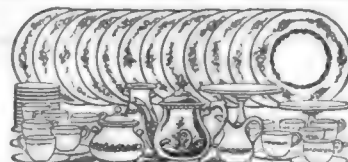
1. TEBE.
2. ANEB.
3. NOINO.
4. NIPRUT.
5. HQASUS.
6. BACBCEA.
7. TELUCET.
8. ARHSID.

We will give \$1.00 in Cash to anyone who can arrange these eight groups of letters into the names of eight well-known Garden Vegetables. Each group of letters when properly arranged, spells the name of a common garden vegetable which is used as an article of food. You can only use each letter in its own group and only as many times as it appears in its own group. Although there are eight groups and eight correct names, so if you can arrange the letters into the eight names of the garden vegetables, we will give you \$1.00 in cash. Understand however that we have one condition, which may take a few hours of your time, and we will write you about it when you send your answer.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

We make this liberal offer so that you may become interested in our business. We want you to work for us in your own locality, and propose to make it an object for you to do so. Dismiss from us does not make any difference. Try and Win, but do not send any money with your answer. It looks like an easy task, yet it is a test of skill. We make this generous offer to every reader of this paper who can solve this puzzle. It is a straight business with us. As soon as we get your answer, we will notify you if the names you send are the correct ones, and will also inform you fully of the work which we wish done that will enable you to win. Write at once, giving your full name and address plainly.

COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, - Boston, Mass.



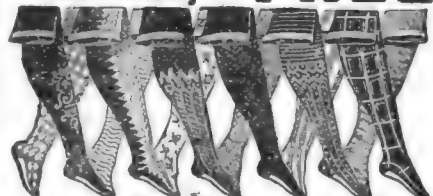
TEA SET FREE

56 PIECES.

Introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion and torpid liver. If you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. each, we will send you the tea set. We will send you the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. P. 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.**

2,400 Dozen Pairs FREE

Fine Hosiery



We have secured at forced sale 2,400 dozen pairs of ladies' fine hose which we propose to clear out within six weeks by giving them away with our Illustrated Fashion Journal in order to advertise & introduce it into new families. The old reliable Fashion Journal of New York is a complete family journal in every particular, the fashion department is unexcelled; with every issue we give beautifully illustrated patterns, latest styles with complete instructions free—contains household hints, fascinating stories & stands in first rank among metropolitan journals. The hose are heavy warm, well-made fashionable goods, in fast colors. All popular shades, cardinal, navy blue, seal brown, black, slate, tan, in fact colors & styles to suit all tastes. There is no need of paying from 25 to 75 cents for a pair of fall & winter hose when you can get a dozen for nothing. Feed lively, the entire lot (2,400 dozen pairs) to be given away during next 60 days for regular subscriptions. Or Better Still, we will send the Illustrated Fashion Journal 6 months free to 2,400 persons who will answer this advertisement at once & send us the address of 20 newspaper readers from different families. We are determined to lead the race in useful premiums, hence this liberal inducement. It's a colossal offer & will not appear again. If you accept it send 10 cts. silver or stamps to help pay postage, mailing, etc., and your order will be filled same day it is received. Address: **Illustrated Fashion Journal, Station D, Box 35, Dept. 327, New York City.** N.B.—A dozen gentle hose given if desired in place of ladies. When you write be sure to mention size & colors wanted.

SILK Scraps, large pkg. 10c. 400 Quilt Pattern Diagrams 10c. 100 crazy stitches with order. Ladies' Art Co., B. 5, St. Louis, Mo.

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C. S. A. MONEY

FREE. Circulars free. Address P. H. Cheney, Box 8, Mutual, Ohio.

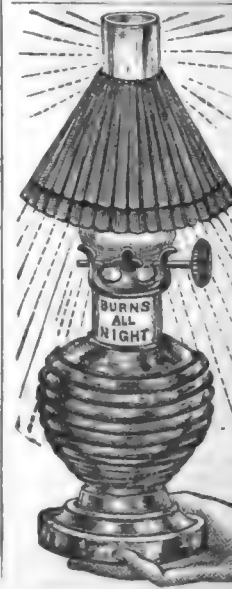
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We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickel base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you will send us 15 cents for a six months' trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want 99¢ to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the **New Lamp** and **Exquisite Penicillaries** with new subscribers. Send 15c. at once and we send sample combined Bottle Perfume and this Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two Lamps and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for 25c. order quick and get agents' terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.**





THE LUNATION of new moon which occurs at about 6 minutes past 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th of October, Washington mean time, the last degree of the sign Capricorn will be rising and the 18th degree of Scorpio will be culminating. The lunation falls in the 8th house within five degrees of both Mercury and Venus, all in the sign Libra which is the home of Venus. The luminaries so placed are without affliction and are in benevolent aspect even with the malevolent planets.

The general indications of the scheme are favorable, though there will be a continuance of martial activity and strong inclinations towards strife for national interests. The warlike spirit will prevail and there will be some unusual contention through diplomatic channels. The malefics are all elevated but highest of all is Jupiter the "Greater Fortune", and the antagonistic inclinations of the government will be tempered by his emanations in ways that are just and benevolent though possibly severe in execution. Jupiter has just passed the south meridian, and in that position the ancients tell us the "king and superiors shall be good and shall honor his or their people and do justice generally and impartially and they shall thrive under their government and be successful."

The great malefics indicate some dissension among politicians over Congressional matters or with reference to continuance or succession in office. The lunation in the 8th house, notwithstanding it suffers no affliction, suggests a warning to the female members of the families of the principal executive authorities of the government, indicating a serious affliction if nothing worse, of some lady of prominence among the first ladies of the land. Some unusual fluctuations in the stock markets are to be looked for from the 7th to the 12th, when also the monied institutions have some flurries of excitement or adopt some measures creating some disturbance in monetary circles. Mars overtakes Jupiter about the 10th of the month and there is likely to be some unhappy development in church affairs or a religious dispute which provokes public comment, nor would it be strange if there should be some popular indignation or excitement over atrocious acts towards Christians in foreign climes. The conjunction of those two planets is to be attended with earth tremors or disturbances in the vicinity of Turkey and Arabia.

The lunation is likely to give some periods of unusual heat with heavy mists and fogs with showers, in the first ten days of the month, though altogether the times are both healthful and pleasant.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER, 1899.

OCTOBER 1-Sunday. Avoid the society of eccentric persons and do not engage the mind in metaphysical discussions or antiquarian researches; the day is peculiarly mischievous for digestive troubles and for acceleration of diseases of the liver and bowels; the evening is active and energetic and improves matters in all directions, especially those of a social character.

2-Monday. Be up betimes; be active and diligent in business and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost; deal with bankers, judges, lawyers and persons of means and prominence; seek money accommodations and buy goods for trade; all in the early part of the day; the afternoon is less to be depended upon and surely ought not to be used for any transaction concerned with land or buildings; nor should any new matter be inaugurated after three o'clock.

3-Tuesday. The forenoon is not auspicious for any of the great moves in life and the pennies will need to be watched that they do not "take to themselves wings" needlessly or fruitlessly. As the noon is passed, however, give all thine energies to the prosecution of literary and artistic matters; do important correspondence and travel; have social and musical entertainments and look for pleasure from the drama.

4-Wednesday. The day is promising and business of all kinds should be urged to the utmost; preferences may be given to such as depend for success upon mental labor; the afternoon is especially favorable for literary matters and for prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; let contracts affecting legal and educational matters be made; merchants and tradesmen are particularly favored.

5-Thursday. Another day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity, and enterprise; the fine arts are encouraged in an eminent degree and architectural and horticultural matters should be pushed vigorously; purchase goods for trade; have money transactions; bargain for houses and lands and deal in such commodities as wood, coal, lumber, grain, and articles of decoration and apparel.

6-Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with renewed vigor in all matters except such as concern houses and lands; the evening is mischievous, so have care not to become involved in any kind of controversy nor be hasty in anything said or done; see that nothing like inflammation results from thine acts of the evening, congestion or hemorrhoidal troubles will be easily aggravated then; be not careless with fire nor in handling animals.

7-Saturday. This day begins auspiciously; choose the forenoon for having thy money dealings and adjusting accounts; buy merchandise for trade and inaugurate enterprises concerned with literary work, books, publications, illustrations, and all artistic pursuits.

8-Sunday. Not a favorable Sabbath day but one likely to be marked by depressing experiences and more recommended for rest and quiet than for any active operation of mind or body.

9-Monday. The first two-thirds of this day should be vigorously used for pushing all thy ventures, particularly such as are to be conducted by the aid or through the intervention of persons in public office or those in authority; the evening is evil and promises disappointment or disagreeable hindrances in matters then begun; do not use the time in any important matter if it can be avoided.

10-Tuesday. The very early morning is the best part of this day, especially for all contracts of a commercial nature or that appertain to the elegant pursuits, literary ventures, and the pleasures and gratifications of mankind; as the noon is passed, however, more than usual caution ought to be used in any money transaction, nor should purchases be made for trade during any part of the succeeding twenty-four hours; some bad financial misfortune is likely here. See that all chances for fire or explosion are guarded against for we are now in the midst of days promotive of combustion and conducive to bad losses therefrom.

11-Wednesday. Be in no haste to begin the labors of this day, especially if it be the commencement of a new venture; but give the preference to the afternoon, when urge thy business with manufacturers, machinists, chemists, and all persons concerned with machinery, drugs, chemicals, metals, cattle, etc.

12-Thursday. Avoid litigation, especially over trademarks, patents, and literary productions; use the pen very cautiously; engage in no important transactions with printers, booksellers, stationers, mathematicians, lawyers or public writers; nor can much advantage be expected from dealings in such goods as pertain to the ornamental or decorative in life; art

labors or enterprises inaugurated during this day are not likely to yield benefit or profit commensurate with effort or expense and are likely to meet baffling and annoying experiences; keep out of disputes in the evening.

13-Friday. Use the forenoon fully for all general business but as the afternoon advances conditions render unsafe the major money transactions and caution all against too easy judgment or speech, when also care should be had that the temper or excitement does not make loss of means or cause injury to the best interests; look out for fires and explosions.

14-Saturday. Affairs commenced at this time have the best promises of success, unless the nativity of the person is now very evilly disturbed. REGULUS recommends that the day be fully improved for all the honorable undertakings in life; that special efforts be given to all enterprises pertaining to the scientific pursuits and such as are concerned with the elegant occupations or polite arts; the day is peculiarly fortunate for courtship and marriage, also for the purchase or sale of wearing apparel and fancy and ornamental goods; authors will find the forenoon of this day excellent for commencing new and important work; make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement.

15-Sunday. Avoid the aged and eccentric in the forenoon; the afternoon is peculiarly favorable for the religious exercises appropriate for the day.

16-Monday. More likely to be a "blue Monday" than otherwise; avoid thy landlord in the morning nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers, and persons engaged in the laborious and dirty avocations; do not make any beginnings nor look for much permanent progress or advantage from thine efforts during the forenoon; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon.

17-Tuesday. Make applications to public officers or persons in authority for favor or promotion; railway officials and government employees are more agreeably disposed and more readily confer favor.

18-Wednesday. The forenoon encourages dealings with the laboring classes and promotes advantage from transactions with plumbers, tanners, and building contractors also from dealings in artistic wares and furnishings or apparel; do not apply for favor from government officials, politicians, superintendents of public works nor any of the ecclesiastical persons in life during the middle hours of the day; urge correspondence in the evening hours when the literary labors generally may be more easily conducted than usual.

19-Thursday. The musical and artistic pursuits and the literary and elegant occupations generally suffer annoyances and embarrassments on this day; the day is peculiarly evil in most respects and prompts the postponement of very important beginnings; enter into no contract of any kind but especially is the time to be avoided for wedding; engage no servants nor expect much progress from any of the literary undertakings.

20-Friday. An evil day; discouraging for the purse and embarrassing to the progress of enterprise; conditions are threatening and money transactions have but little, if any chance of success; inducements may be held out for speculation, but REGULUS advises his friends to beware of temptation; litigation and heavy loss, if not bankruptcy are likely to fall to the lot of a great majority of those who embark their capital on this day; avoid dealings with mechanics, chemists, dentists, surgeons and manufacturers.

21-Saturday. Do not travel or change residence on this day; public officials and railroad employees will be short of patience; have no transactions pertaining to patents, trademarks, or any of the novelties of life; very aged and infirm persons are best avoided.

22-Sunday. Not promising for Sabbath day; the brain and nervous energies are just now suffering considerable detriment and nervous diseases will be greatly quickened for a time; seek rest and quiet on this day which is unusually depressing.

23-Monday. A vein of evil is mixed with what would otherwise be very benevolent conditions on this day and somewhat embarrassing or frustrates the undertakings of the time; make no bargains for houses or lands; defer consultations with architects and builders, and dealings of importance with stone cutters, masons and persons in the dirty avocations.

24-Tuesday. For authors, musicians and artists this is an especially fortunate day; let all engaged in the polite arts improve every moment, urging and realizing from their several pursuits; purchase merchandise for trade and have important money transactions. The day is full of courage and enterprise inducing increased business activity and a healthy venturesomeness and REGULUS specially urges his friends to improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, consumer, and all in the literary pursuits or having employment concerning books or upon the press are particularly favored; let the day be taken for inaugurating the principal ventures of the passing time.

25-Wednesday. This day should be fully improved in the pursuit of all general business but especially for dealings with druggists, chemists and mechanics. It is very favorable for all in the mechanical pursuits or who employ fire or sharp instruments in their callings.

26-Thursday. This is one of the excellent days of the month especially for inaugurating important matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment and the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with the ladies and have the social gathering and musical or dramatic entertainment; deal with eccentric characters; consult ancient authorities and have dealings concerning rare and antique articles.

27-Friday. Be cautious in the use of the pen during this day; make no contracts, engage no help, nor expect favor from lawyers, judges, or persons generally in the literary pursuits; the judgment will prove faulty and mental productions are best laid aside for future consideration and revision; do not sign any money agreement and hold on to the purse-strings.

28-Saturday. Begin this day early and actively pursue thy several avocations, giving preference, if any, to the literary and artistic pursuits; seek favor from thine employer in the afternoon and evening.

29-Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day, encouraging lofty sentiment and elevating religious discourse, and clergymen have happy influences to assist them in their labors and in advancing church interests.

30-Monday. The morning hours are baffling and important matters are best deferred until a more favorable time; the middle hours of the day encourage the literary pursuits; in the evening hours seek the society and advantages from manufacturers, mechanics, chemists, military men, surgeons, and traders in metals and cattle.

31-Tuesday. A very favorable day generally for the pursuit of business and especially for dealings with public officials and persons of prominence in large corporations; also for antiquarian researches and the study of uncommon or occult subjects.

It takes the moon 29 days, 12 hours and 44 minutes to make a revolution around the earth.



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A most successful remedy has been found for sexual weakness such as impotency, shrunken organs, nervous debility, lost manhood, night emissions, premature discharge, and all other results of self-abuse or excesses. It cures any case of the difficulty, never fails to restore the organs to full natural strength and vigor. The Doctor who made this wonderful discovery wants to let every man know about it. He will therefore send the receipt giving the various ingredients to be used so that all men at a trifling expense can cure themselves. He sends the receipt free, and all the reader need do is to send his name and address to L. W. Knapp, M. D., 1309 Hull Bldg., Detroit, Mich., requesting the free receipt as reported in this paper. It is a generous offer, and all men ought to be glad to have such an opportunity.

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Prof. Laborde's Marvelous French Cure for Lost Manhood.

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NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.



The only preparation known to science which really cures Lost Manhood is "CALTHOS," the marvelous French remedy discovered by Prof. Jules Laborde. It is controlled in this country by The Von Mohl Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a concern which occupies a high and honorable place in the world of medicine. It is one of the largest and most responsible houses in Cincinnati, as anyone who is acquainted in that city will testify.

The Von Mohl Company invites all men suffering from Lost Manhood, Spermatorrhea, Varicocele, Small Parts or Weakness of any nature in the Nerves or Sexual Organs, to send their names and receive a five days' treatment. This will prove the wonderful vitalizing powers of "CALTHOS." After using it five days the sufferers will find new vigor in their organs, new force in their muscles, new blood in their veins, new ambition, and rapid progress toward the buoyant feelings and sensations of younger days.

This liberal free offer is genuine. There is no swindling C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme connected with it. The five days' treatment is sent by sealed mail to all on request, wrapped in a plain package, and full printed instructions accompany the medicine, so that each patient becomes his own doctor and cures himself at home.

It doesn't make any difference what caused the weakness—whether bad habits in youth or excess, or overwork, or business troubles. "CALTHOS" will effect a cure, no matter what big name the disease may be called by doctors.

The Von Mohl Company treats all correspondence in perfect confidence. Under no conditions will it make public the names of the thousands who have written testimonials telling of their restoration to robust manhood after other medicines and appliances have proved worthless. "CALTHOS" is regularly used in the French and German armies, and the soldiers in those countries have come to be perfect models of strength and vitality. Cures are effected at all ages from twenty to eighty years. There is no case (except where the stage of epilepsy or insanity has been reached) which it will not radically, quickly and permanently cure. Sexual weakness does not cure itself. It grows worse from week to week. Each day aggravates the mental and physical anguish.

Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help, no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

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My mamma wants to tell you something is the title of a book that should be read by all expectant mothers; it tells how she can find relief from all the ills incident to motherhood and secure health for both mother and child, sent free by Dr. J. H. De Moursat Esq., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Every family in America is ready to buy "The Light that sells on sight" the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK. It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discards kerosene, kerosene gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight. It saves 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for three.

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The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 wicks, says: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day." Every

home, store, hotel, car company will light. We have manufactured to cover, and we wholesale terms Medium or A for house lamps, dozen, 25 cents; wicks, for hand wicks, sample, 5 gross, \$2.50; hall, store, or sample, 5 cents; \$3.50; 11-2 ball, bracket, or 33 cents dozen; parlor lamps, sample, 5 cents; per gross, accompanied by our sample dozen, giving with desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A or B wick. Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

COMFORT'S PARTIAL PREMIUM LIST, FOR 1899-1900.

Don't destroy this issue of "Comfort!" If you are not able to get up a club for "COMFORT" now or have not the money at present to renew or subscribe, preserve this number and remember to order from it later in the fall or even next year, as we will supply you with any of the premiums presented here at any time during the next twelve months unless they are entirely sold; we will refund the money in that case. If you can not send in a full list of subscribers to secure a large premium all at once send what you can and we credit you the amount sent and send Premium. Remember "COMFORT" is a 50c. paper, but we will until further notice take subscriptions at the special price of 25c. per year. We offer these great inducements to you to get up these clubs of trial subscribers, and to make the work easier offer not only valuable premiums but place special prices on trial subscriptions of 3, 6 or 12 months, which count just as many in making the clubs as if the full regular subscription price was paid; so that you have every advantage in getting up such clubs. The cost of a year's subscription to this wonderful paper is so trifling, and there is more reading matter in it than in any other monthly paper in the world. Look over the list and try for a prize. The holidays will soon be here. Address all orders for Premiums

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SILVER CAKE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots. Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

- 1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
- 1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x8 1/2.
- 1 Design for Corner, 6x10.
- 1 Clover Design for Dolly.
- 1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
- 1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3 1/2 x 8.
- 1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5 1/2 x 6.
- 1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
- 1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x8.
- 4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dollys, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.
- 1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11 1/2 x 15 1/2.
- 1 Design for Fumblers Dolly, 4x4.
- 1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
- 1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.
- 1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.
- 4 Designs for Butter Plate Dollys, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.
- 1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.
- 1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
- 1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
- 1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.
- 1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid.

- 1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
- 1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
- 1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9 1/2 x 9 1/2.
- 1 Rosebud Dolly, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2.
- 1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1 1/2 inches high.
- 1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
- 1 Pansy Dolly, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.
- 1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
- 1 Border for Flannel Work, 3 1/2 inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



HOME REPAIRING OUTFIT NO. 1 FOR BOOT, SHOE, HARNESS AND TINWARE REPAIRING.

pair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.62 which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 7 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler or pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools**, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoe knife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box assorted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for half-soling, etc.; 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.62 which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 7 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



\$3.50 A FINE CHINA CLOSET \$3.50

IS A WOMAN'S PRIDE.

We Give Magnificent Tea Sets as Presents. Act Quick before Tariff Charges Shut us Off.

We have but two thousand of these beautiful **TEA SETS** left—and the late great change in Tariff laws will mean a big raise in the price of chinaware. Illustrations can give you but a faint idea of the beautiful and artistic decorated Tea sets we are now **GIVING AWAY** for a few hours' time. These Tea Sets are such as have sold at the stores for \$9.25 or \$13.00. We will for the next 27 days sell you one outright for only \$3.50, including a year's subscription. You never saw such a **Bare Bargain** in your life and you can have one yourself as a present if you want it. All that you will have to do is to get up a club of 15 subscribers to this paper at 25c. each. **No such offer was ever made before.** We will give you the set **absolutely free as a premium** if you will do this and send us the addresses and money (\$3.75) in all. Our former club offer was for 36 subscribers, \$9.00 or \$6.00 in cash, which was an unheard of low price at that time. This **Panic Cut Price \$3.50** cannot last but a short time so **avail yourself of the bargain.** Next season it will surely go to \$5.00 cash or over. This useful and ornamental set, which would adorn and beautify any abode of luxury, we shall **give away** for a short time to readers of this paper. Let us tell you what it is. It is a 56-piece tea set consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 2 cake plates, 12 preserve dishes and one slop bowl. It is of the finest English ware, and every piece perfect in design and shape. Never was a more handsome set put together, and it will be a marvel of beauty for years. It is the perfection of daintiness and every woman loves it the moment she sees it.

\$3.50 If you are a reader of this paper we can sell you one of these magnificent tea sets at the **importer's cost only** so long as they last. We want to extend this paper to every home, so get up a club; but, just once, if you cannot for any reason get up the club, we will sell you one at this **Unusually Low Price of \$3.50.** You can keep this as a souvenir of this paper and when you show it to your friends tell how you got it. Each set is carefully packed to go by express or freight, charges to be paid by the receiver.

ALSO A DINNER SET. Perhaps you may want a full 112 piece Dinner Set instead of the Tea Set, if so we have a gem in that line as fully illustrated above. We will send one of these sets by freight safely packed in a barrel for a club of only 36 yearly subscribers to this paper at 25c. each, or will send it for \$7.75 cash including a year's subscription. These Dinner Sets were bought in connection with the Tea Sets, generally sold for \$15 to \$19 each. Only by taking a **whole cargo at once** could we get so low a figure on them.

Our English Dinner Set consists of 112 pieces of the finest ware. It is elegant in design, and of the latest and most popular fashion, decorated after originals by the best porcelain workers in England. It has all the delicacy and beauty of Limoges Ware and cannot be told from the very finest of china. For any one that desires a perfect service that will last a lifetime and always be pleasing to the eye and in fashion, this set is exactly what will be desired. Every lady who sees it is crazy to possess one for her own use. We guarantee perfect satisfaction. Our Decorated English Dinner Set contains 112 pieces, assorted as follows: 12 Dinner Plates, 12 Tea Plates, 12 Breakfast Plates, 12 Soup Plates, 12 Fruit Saucers, 12 Individual Butter Plates, 1 10-inch Platter, 1 14-inch Platter, 1 Baker, 2 Covered Dishes, 12 Handled Tea-cups, 12 Saucers, 1 Covered Butter and Drainer, 1 Sauce Boat, 1 Pickle Dish, 1 Sugar Bowl, 1 Cream Pitcher, 1 Bowl. Our price for this elegant set is only \$7.75. It must be sent by freight or express, the receiver to pay freight charges.

SPECIAL OFFER. You may want to earn both a Tea Set and the Dinner Set. If so send at once for subscription blanks and we will send both Sets consisting of 168 pieces for a club of only 72 yearly subscribers at 25c. each. You can earn one of the sets any way, if not remember we sell the Tea Set of 56 pieces for only \$3.50, and the Dinner Set of 112 pieces for only \$7.75. Act to-day and get a set before they are all gone. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CUTS STEEL AS A DIAMOND CUTS CLASS.

Every Housekeeper Needs One. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" sharpens all Table Cutlery, Scythes, Mowing Machines, Corn Cutters, Grain Cradles, Brush Hooks, Knives, etc. Shoemakers and Butchers use them. 200,000 now in use. They are practical and durable, do perfect work. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" cuts steel as a Diamond cuts glass, and sells fast with agents at great profits; sample sent free if you enclose 18c. for a six months' subscription to COMFORT. Will send one dozen by express for \$1.25, easily retails for 25c. each, more than one hundred per cent. profit. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stuns and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us 12 cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for 27 cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only 76 cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WOMAN'S DELIGHT AND MAN'S PRIDE.

An Article in which Luxury and Utility are Harmoniously Blended.

BEAUTIFUL IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND USE.

A writing desk and bookcase are indispensable in every home. We are enabled to make it possible for every reader of this paper to obtain a fashionable and luxurious article of furniture which will be of use every hour in the day, and, which by its rich elegance and tasteful appearance, will prove an ornament in every home where it is placed.

THE ELITE WRITING DESK AND BOOKCASE

is richly designed in the artistic and graceful Modern-Antique Style that is the correct style in the homes of wealthy and fashionable people in society. It is built of clear, solid oak, in a thorough and substantial manner, and will last a century with ordinary care, growing handsomer as the wood constantly improves with age. It is 5 feet in height, and 2 feet 6 inches in width. Four large, deep shelves for books or vases and bric-a-brac; and a splendid desk with folding top, full complement of pigeon-holes and receptacles for paper, envelopes, letters, bills, securities, etc. In fact, a perfect and complete secretary for the library, the office, the parlor, or anywhere where an ornamental desk is needed. The most desirable premium ever offered to the people at a popular cost, and everyone guaranteed satisfactory.

Our Grand Offer. We will send this splendid bookcase and desk, exactly as described, to any person who will send \$4.27 for this paper for a trial year's subscription. Freight charges only to be paid by the receiver on arrival. This is the grandest offer ever made by a reliable publisher on any article of select and fashionable furniture.

Splendid Club Offer. If you will get up a club of only 18 yearly subscribers at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each, we will send one of these cases and desks to you **Free.** Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



A \$5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY \$1.49.

TEN MILLION MEN WILL SAVE \$250,000,000.



The average man saves about twenty-five dollars a year by shaving himself and by having a good outfit. You can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up A No. one tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that Swedish Razors were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we bargained for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickel-plated, Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic—making a grand \$5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer the best articles at the lowest cost. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and you can get one free as follows: Send a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper, at 25c each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send \$1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE LOVER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA.

Fun, Amusement, and Instruction for All.



No young lady or young man can be quite "up-to-date" without the knowledge which this book contains.

It tells the art and etiquette of conversation—how, when and where to talk.

It gives full instructions regarding dress and personal appearance, and the secret of ease and grace in deportment and conversation under embarrassing circumstances.

It tells how to cure bashfulness. Worth \$5 to any bashful young man. It gives full instructions in the art of winning the opposite sex. It tells how to choose a partner for life. The laws of marriage. How to make courting a success. How to propose. Marriage and its results.

It gives dozens of funny love letters, and scores of odd and ingenious proposals never before published. Everyone may get new ideas to fit any case.

It contains fifteen hundred gems of prose and poetry, 'choice selections suitable for inscriptions with birthday, holiday and wedding gifts, Christmas, New Year's and Easter cards, autograph albums, valentines, etc., etc.

It is literally packed from cover to cover with just the things you want to know. It is a regular 50 cent book, but we will mail them to any address, carefully wrapped, for just half price, one copy for 25 Cents. Which includes a three months' subscription to

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

French and Swiss Music Boxes Outplayed by the New AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing \$100. We want a SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, TO SELL OUR REMEDIES, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE \$100 to \$300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms. These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send \$1.50 when you order and pay balance \$3.50 when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order.

We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.





CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.

This refined Cut Glass Finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a Quadruple Silver Plated Rim to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in cut glass has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



THE EAGLE CLAW,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD FOR CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.

A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, \$2.25; No. 2, \$3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.





WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

PEARL AND GILT Initial Stick Pins.

New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever, we have just secured a novelty in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to this paper, the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

UNIFORM YOUR CLUB.

BOYS' LEAGUE BASE BALL OUTFIT.

PRICE, \$2.00.

EACH OUTFIT CONTAINS:

- 9 BASE BALL CAPS.
- 9 BASE BALL BELTS.
- 1 BASE BALL.
- 1 BASE BALL BAT.
- 1 THROWING GLOVE.
- 1 CATCHER'S MITT.
- 1 CATCHER'S WIRE MASK.
- 1 BOOK COMPLETE BASE BALL RULES.

Boys, here is a chance to get a Complete Outfit at a Bargain. Send us your order quick. Price, Complete Outfit, packed in strong case, only \$2.00.

Every boy wants his club in uniform. Here is the chance. Jim dandy goods and latest league pattern. Complete outfit for young prize winners. Take a pride in your club and work for it.

A BIG CHANCE FOR YOUR CLUB. Get up a club of nine yearly subscribers at our special rate of 25 cents and we will send one outfit free. Each boy get one subscriber and you get the outfit. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

JUST LIKE RAIN.

Every person who cultivates plants should have one of these Bent Neck Sprinklers for sprinkling plants or flowers in house or garden. Also useful to sprinkle clothes for ironing, spraying clothing or carpets to prevent moths, and to disinfect sick-rooms, etc. Much better than dipper or watering pot for every purpose. For plants, destroys red spiders, knits, caterpillars, etc. Sprinkles plants earth and soiling everything else near. Constructed so simply of a rubber bulb and hard rubber spray that it cannot get out of order, and will last almost a lifetime. Acts exactly like nature and is the only true substitute for rain in plant life.

AN OFFER TO YOU. To induce you to take a six months' trial of our great Home Story Paper, we will send you one of these large size Sprinklers and the paper on trial six months, all charges prepaid, for only 63 cents. Don't neglect this.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE LADY'S SYRINGE.

This Syringe we recommend as the simplest and most perfect Vaginal Syringe in the market. It is made of soft rubber, and consists of the nozzle, vaginal shield and a bulb. The vaginal shield is the essential feature of the instrument. It is constructed in such a manner that when the nozzle is pressed against the vaginal inlet it closes the latter so perfectly that when the bulb is pressed upon, the injection enters the vagina and expands all its folds which harbor the discharges to be removed. As long as the bulb is pressed upon the injection is held in contact with the entire mucous membrane, and is removed the moment the bulb is allowed to expand. By repeating the injection and withdrawing several times the vagina can be more perfectly cleansed than can be done by any other instrument. This is a bonanza for wide-awake lady agents who can sell them in every house, as they give perfect satisfaction to every lady using them. They are so simple that their merits and perfect work are easily explained satisfactory by one lady to another, and every lady buys one at once.

With a year's trial subscription to this paper we will send this syringe by mail for \$1.75; or, a year's subscription and one dozen, by express, for \$12.84.

CLUB OFFER. If you will get up a club of ten subscribers to this paper at 25 cents, we will send you a Syringe FREE for your trouble.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

No. 484, HOT-WATER BOTTLE.

Every family ought to own one of these hot-water bottles. Fill the bag with hot water, and place it against the body where there is pain. It will give immediate and great relief, and sometimes saves life. It would be well if people generally understood this fact. It improves the circulation of the blood and gives vigor and elasticity to the body. The best thing in the world for warming beds in cold nights; for invalids, or people with cold feet or poor circulation.

These bags are made of superior quality rubber, the best made, and every bag is warranted perfect, and will hold two quarts of water. These water bottles are sold everywhere at from \$1.25 to \$1.75 each.

We will send this paper six months on trial and a hot-water bottle free for \$1.05; or, for \$3.50 we will send the paper one year on trial and one dozen bottles as described, by express.

A Grand Offer. If you will get up a club of six subscribers to this paper at 25 cents we will send you a Hot-Water Bottle FREE.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WILLING TO WORK.

\$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have a good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dw. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dw. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only \$1.00, which is \$1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid they may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the one dollar cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent one dollar and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

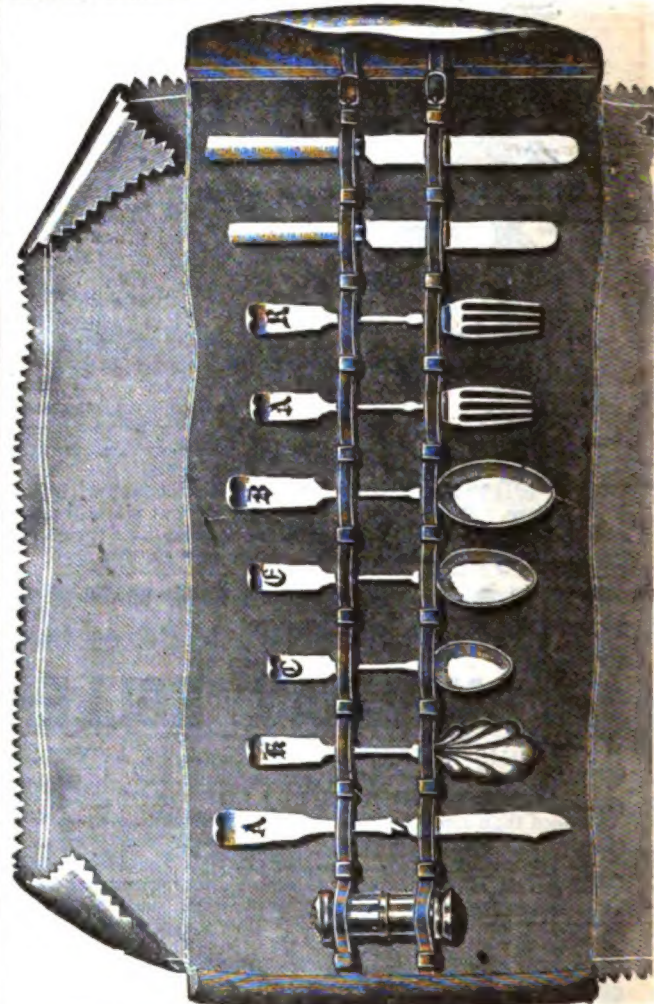
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,

Box 1000,

DETROIT, MICH.